



An international evening in Porthcawl. See page 6 for details.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH, 2014

COED-Y-MWSTWR
HOTEL - Pages 16-17



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See Page 25 for details of our weekly Facebook Competition...

RHOOSE BOWLING CLUB Page 22

LOCAL PUPILS MAKE A WISH!



Llangewydd pupils have been making a wish for their future. (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 9)

£208,250 windfall for It's My Shout group

IT'S My Shout Productions, which is based in Pencoed, has been awarded £208,250 by Creative Skillset Cymru - to help develop skills and talent in Wales.

The investment has been made available through Creative Skillset Cymru's Skills Investment Fund.

It's My Shout, which is behind the

Bridgend Youth Theatre, will work with a consortium of partners including BBC Cymru Wales, S4C and The Film Agency for Wales, to give training opportunities to up to 59 individuals from across Wales, in a wide range of production areas - from camera to sound, art department to hair and make-up - and act as a resource for film and high-end television production in Wales.

It's My Shout Productions Ltd produced short films for television and screen for BBC Cymru Wales, S4C and the UK Film Council.

Huw Walters, interim director for Creative Skillset Cymru said: "It's My Shout's new trainee programme focuses on areas of production skills which are currently lacking in Wales."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Local man jailed for 'horrendous' lighter fuel attack

A MAN was subjected to a "horrendous" attack when a drunken friend sprayed him with lighter fuel and ignited it.

Seconds later, John George (30) repeatedly punched the victim, Paul Hamer, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

George, of Bryn Du Road, Kenfig Hill, was jailed for three years and three months.

He pleaded guilty to attempting to cause Mr Hamer grievous bodily harm and was in breach of a community order for battery.

Recorder Peter Griffiths told him: "You pleaded guilty to a very serious charge for which there are no sentencing

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

guidelines. You subjected this man to an absolutely horrendous assault. You sprayed lighter fuel over him, lit it and beat him up. The court cannot ignore what you did."

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that on February 6, George went to Mr Hamer's flat unexpectedly in Kenfig Hill. They had known each other since childhood. He said Mr Hamer let him in and they chatted for some time.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

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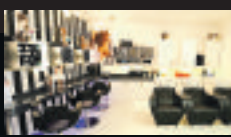
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With Mother's Day fast approaching... MEET THE BRYNCETHIN CAT CENTRE'S BRAND NEW MUMS!



Easter and kittens. PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUE DOBBS.

WITH Mother's Day coming up, The Cats Protection Centre in Bryncethin couldn't resist sending these photos of their very cute mums, including Angel and her adorable kittens.

Centre manager Sue Dobbs said: "Angel is approximately two years old, and was taken in by a member of the public after she was found lost and alone but admitted into our care when she was heavily pregnant.

"She gave birth within a few days of coming into us to three beautiful kittens whom we have called Alroy, Ajay and Adele.

"Behind the very cute pics is the sad story of cats becoming unwanted after becoming pregnant/giving birth. In the last two weeks alone we have had 10 heavily pregnant cats/new mums with their kittens coming into our care.

"Every year we have over 1,200 unwanted cats and kittens admitted to the centre, many of which could have been prevented by neutering.

"Other stray mums in our care include Sally – seven months old who gave birth to five kittens while only a kitten herself; Easter – two-year-old stray mum who gave birth outside to five kittens; Mummy – two-year-old stray mum who gave birth outside to four kittens."

If you would like more information then contact me on 01656 726621. Photos taken by myself and available in high resolution.



Angel and kittens.



SALLY AND KITTENS.



MUMMY AND KITS.

Ogmore AM and MP help raise AS awareness



OGMORE AM Janice Gregory has sponsored an event at the Assembly – to raise awareness of Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS).

She and other members signed a pledge to raise awareness of the condition and support people with AS in Wales. "Ankylosing Spondylitis is a painful and progressive form of inflammatory arthritis affecting one adult in every 200," Janice Gregory AM said.

"We all have an important role to play in raising awareness of AS. Early diagnosis and good treatment are vital. At present, the average time

before the condition is diagnosed is eight and a half years in Wales. This reflects levels of awareness amongst both medical professionals and the wider public."

Ogmore MP, Huw Irranca-Davies, who himself has AS, recently walked 50 miles to raise awareness and funds for the NASS. Speaking on video at the event he said:

"We want politicians in Westminster and in the Assembly to do their bit in raising awareness and campaigning for good treatment and early diagnosis of this condition. Every Assembly Member can make a real difference and I thank them so much for giving their support."

A GEM READER ASKS... Is the Police Commissioner value for money?

MY wife and I have just received our Council Tax demand notice for the coming year and included in this demand is the sum of £232.64 for 'The Police and Crime Commissioner for south Wales.'

This is an enormous amount of money when one considers the number of people/homes that are included in this demand, and one has to ask whether there is any justification for this tax demand.

What changes and improvements in the performance and activities of the police has the Commissioner achieved and can his continuance in this capacity be justified?

I have suggested on a couple of occasions to the Commissioner that there should be an improvement in the police activity in two particular parts of their road policing – one being in the control and reduction of mobile phone users whilst driving; and secondly, in

the (unfortunately) almost standard habit of many drivers hogging outside/overtaking lanes.

Both of these activities by drivers are illegal and are known causes of accidents.

I am very committed to the control of mobile phone use by drivers, as my own ex-son-in-law was very nearly killed as a victim of a collision with a lorry in Cambridge.

I have also very nearly been involved in driving accidents involving people phoning while driving.

Almost inevitably there have been no positive responses from either the Commissioner or by the Police to requests for them to control these two issues.

If we are going to continue to pay this sum to retain the Commissioner, can we see evidence of the success of his position within the region?

Brian Sewell, Bridgend.

Appeal for more short term carers

TO mark Share the Care week (23-29 March), BCBC is urging residents with experience of looking after disabled children and young people to become a short break carer.

The Family Link short break service matches children and families with a carer to give the family a short break on a regular basis. The breaks can involve a couple of hours in the daytime or overnight stays on the weekend, a spokeswoman said.

The service is invaluable to disabled children and young people, providing them with opportunities to meet new people, enjoy a variety of activities, and help them to move towards independence. Activities can include taking children swimming or to the park,

or involving them in home activities such as art, cooking or playing games.

Short break care also gives the families of disabled youngsters an often much-needed break and a chance to relax, do other tasks and spend time with other family members and friends.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "More short break carers are needed in Bridgend county borough to help disabled children experience different things and take part in activities within their community, as well as provide a much needed break for their families."

"We want to hear from anyone who wants to be involved in this great initiative. Short breaks carers receive comprehensive training as well as ongoing support and guidance."

Campaign aiming to reduce the school run

FAMILIES across Bridgend county borough have been swapping cars for bikes and scooters to make their daily school run – as part of the 'Big Pedal 2014'.

Organised by cycling charity Sustrans, and supported locally by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), the 10-day long initiative saw 18 schools sign up to compete for prizes by encouraging pupils to either scoot or cycle safely to school.

Roger Dutton, Sustrans' 'Bike It' officer for Bridgend, visited Oldcastle Primary School to give some scooter skills training, a bike mechanic checked and repaired nearly 60 bikes at Cornelli Primary School, a 'be bright, be seen' assembly was held at Cefn Cribwr Primary School, while pupils at Brackla Primary School even used a bike-powered smoothie maker to whizz up some drinks!

A number of schools also took part in a 'Superhero Day' dressing up and raising money for charity.

Coun Phil White, BCBC cabinet member for transportation, said: "The Big Pedal is a really fun way of spreading the message about sustainable transport, and cycling and scooting are also obviously an excellent way for children to stay fit and healthy."

One school that is leading the way in encouraging sustainable and active travel among its pupils is Coychurch Primary School. Their year-round commitment has resulted in them being awarded the 'Bronze School Mark' from Sustrans, and head-



ABOVE: Pupils at the Oldcastle Primary School in Bridgend enjoy a scooter skills session, as part of this year's 'Big Pedal'.

teacher Sue Hurry said: "We are very proud to receive this award, which recognises our efforts to promote sustainable travel among children, parents and staff."

"During the last year, the numbers of pupils cycling to school has increased from zero to 33 per cent and gaining bronze award status is a great achievement for our school. I'd like to pay tribute to everyone who has made the initiative such a success, and we now want to go on and achieve silver status."

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HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 4)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
27 Thur	03.08	8.4	15.44	8.5
28 Fri	04.11	9.1	16.43	9.2
29 Sat	05.05	9.7	17.29	9.9
30 Sun	06.52	10.2	19.17	10.1
31 Mon	07.37	10.4	19.55	10.3
01 Tues	08.18	10.4	20.37	10.3
02 Wed	08.59	10.2	21.14	9.9
03 Thur	09.37	9.8	21.51	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Tory AM calls for wider probe into NHS by Welsh Assembly

A REGIONAL AM, Suzy Davies, has urged health chiefs to widen the inquiry taking place into problems at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Mrs Davies, a Welsh Conservative Regional AM for south Wales west, has asked Health Minister Mark Drakeford to institute a wider reaching investigation into the NHS in Wales.

She said that his decision to appoint Professor Andrews to investigate the Princess of Wales and Neath Port Talbot Hospitals meant that issues at Morriston Hospital are not included.

Relatives of Margaret Hoskins, who was a patient there, are calling for an inquiry into her death.

She said: "Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board has taken action to try and alleviate some of the problems at the Princess of Wales Hospital. They have created a new role of Director of Princess of Wales Hospital, which did not exist before.

Paul Stauber, who has a lot of experience of the NHS, was appointed.

"But I wonder why it took them more than a month to answer a Freedom of Information request I submitted about the creation of this post. I was only asking if it was a new position."

Mrs Davies added: "I understand that the new role brings together the operational management of the hospital and its acute services under the overall control of a senior manager.

"There have been a lot of issues at this hospital and we need to be sure that the necessary improvements in quality of care and safety of patients are being made.

"There are many public concerns about the way it has performed in recent years as evidenced by the number of people involved in the patients action group."

ABMU also has its own inquiry under way into what has been happening at the hospital.

'STARS' STEP OUT FOR SPORT RELIEF!



Continental market place – in Bridgend!



FOR the first time, Bridgend town centre will be transformed into a bustling European market place from April 3 – 6.

Market organiser Olivier Simonin explained: "We have professional continental market traders from France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Holland, Poland and many more countries who will be wearing traditional costumes, selling high quality products – including Brittany biscuits, olives, Italian nougat, delectable cheeses, sausages, tartiflette (a delicious cheese and potatoes dish from the Alps), charcuterie, fresh bread, croissants and for those of you with a sweet tooth, there will also be delicious freshly made crepes!"

"You will also be able to choose from a wide range of products including handbags and leather items, Marseille soaps, lavender, children's toys and pashminas! There really will be something for everyone in Caroline Street.

"All of the traders will also wear their tra-

ditional local costumes from 100 years ago, as well as decorating their stall to represent the region of the country they come from. The market will therefore provide you with a true

flavour of the continent..."

For more information visit www.traditionalmarket.co.uk or Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/traditionalmarket>.

'ANT and Dec', a few Teletubbies and the cast of Harry Potter were among those taking part in a fancy dress mile for Sport Relief at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School in Kenfig Hill this week!

Nearly 200 pupils aged seven to 11 dressed up to run, walk or jog a mile-long circuit around the school's yard as they aimed to raise more than £1,000 for good causes.

A number of other local schools were also joining Mynydd Cynffig Juniors by organising activities in aid of Sport Relief, and 23 primary schools were visited on Friday by a group of teachers who are cycling 70 miles around Bridgend county borough.

Find out more about Sport Relief at www.sportrelief.com and for further details about the cycling challenge, visit <http://my.sportrelief.com/sponsor/bridgendcycleride>.

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Children enjoying finding out about the environment on the weekly 'Welly Wednesdays' offered by Bridgend County Borough Council's Flying Start team in Bettws.

WATCH OUT FOR MINI BEASTS..!

'WELLY Wednesdays' are helping young children who are attending the Action for Children Flying Start facility next to Bettws Primary School to learn about nature and the environment.

The children don their wellies for a short trip to the nearby nature reserve

and take a walk around the woodland, keeping their eyes peeled for any 'mini-beasts', before going back to draw and paint what they have seen.

The Bettws Flying Start team are also extending their outdoor garden so that they can teach youngsters about growing plants, flowers and vegetables, and have launched 'Tasty Tuesdays', where they

cook up meals using some of the food grown in the garden. All of the ingredients and recipes are then given to parents so they can enjoy making the same meals at home with their children.

Flying Start is the Welsh Government's targeted Early Years programme for families with children under four years of age in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Wales.

To find out more about Action for Children Flying Start in Bettws call Lianne Davies on 01656 815028 or email lianne.davies@bridgend.gov.uk.

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Continental Market

Bridgend Caroline Street
Thursday 3rd-Sunday 6th April

Professional Continental market traders from France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Holland, Poland, wearing traditional costumes will be selling high quality products including Brittany biscuits, olives, French crepes, Italian nougat, pungent cheese, sausissons, Tartiflette from the Alps, charcuterie, fresh breads, croissants and much, much more!

For more information visit www.traditionalmarket.co.uk or www.facebook.com/traditionalmarket

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
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A FIFTH GENERATION
MANY congratulations to a local family (pictured right) which has just had its numbers increased to include a fifth generation.

Great-great grandmother Ivy Davies from Sarn recently celebrated her 104th birthday, great grandmother Ann Ford from Bryncethin is 75; grandmother Paula Ford from Bryncethin is 51; father Jonathan Ford is aged 20, and the new member of the family is Ioan Ford, aged seven weeks.

FUTURE PLANNING
COLEG Cymendol Y Dderwen (Ynysawdre comprehensive school) pupils in year-11 will by now be seriously considering the next stage of their career path beyond Key Stage 4.

They will be able to explore options at the school's annual careers fair on April 1 from 4pm to 6.30pm and speak to teachers, careers advisers, representatives from local universities, Bridgend College and local employers.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

MAESTEG children's choir will be performing at St John's church, Glyncorrwg, on Saturday, April 5 at 7pm; tickets are £3. Past member Rhian Hughes will be the soloist and the choir will be singing some of its favourite pieces.

The choir which, amazingly, has been in existence for 28 years, is busy rehearsing for its 28th annual concert in Maesteg town hall, when it will be performing in an evening of 'Jazz and Swing'.

ROCK 'N' ROLL
LOCAL DJ Dave Reilly will be providing 60s music to raise money for the Sandville self-help centre in Ton Kenfig at Pyle Rugby Club on Friday, April 11 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 at the door and everyone is welcome.

PEN-Y-FAI WI
JEAN GRIFFITHS, the president, opened the meeting on March 17 in Pen-y-Fai Cofe primary school, and wished birthday greetings to members celebrating in March.

Chris Philips advised members of future

events - on May 7 is the annual council meeting, and on May 13 there will be a visit to the secret garden in Miskin RC church.

She also advised members that there are now craft classes in Smyrna chapel hall, Pen-y-Fai on the last Friday afternoon in every month at 2pm.

The speaker for the evening was David Bray, whose subject was 'Rubbish tips which I made'.

David had worked for Cardiff City Council for over 40 years and had been in charge of its refuse collection and street cleaning services.

When a new landfill site started, there was a big problem with seagulls, so the council housed a falcon, hawk and an owl on the site.

David Attenborough the BBC naturalist was so impressed, he brought a film crew to the site and made a documentary for the BBC.

Chris Philips gave the vote of thanks when David had finished.

The next meeting is at the school on Monday, April 14 at 7.30pm.

CHRISTIAN AID MEMBERS of Aberkenfig Bible Church, Aberkenfig (Old Lyric Cinema) are making a big effort to raise money for the above charity.

On Saturday, March 22 between 12pm and 1.15pm, the members are inviting the public to their chapel hall to enjoy a lunch of real home-made soup and bread roll. They welcome donations for this Lenten lunch, with all money raised going to the charity.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
THE parishioners of Llansantffraid, Betws

Bridgend credit unions will share Assembly funding

CREDIT Unions have been urged to do more to help financially excluded people by the Welsh Government.

Communities and Tackling Poverty Minister Jeff Cuthbert announced almost £1.7 million funding to help vulnerable consumers and put credit unions on a sustainable footing so they can survive without public funding.

Bridgend Credit Union is to receive £91,383 of the funding, while the Llynfi Valley



PICTURED: Left to right: Jonathan Ford, Ivy Davies with Ioan Ford, Ann Ford and Paula Ford.

and Aberkenfig would like to wish Freda Hurley who will be 90 years old on Monday, March 31, 'Happy Birthday'.

QUIZ NIGHT
BOIS Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch is organising a quiz night at Tondur cricket club on Friday, April 4 at 7pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

HEARTSTART OGMORE Valley First Responders have organised a Heartstart course this Saturday, March 29, at Omore Valley Bowls Club from 10am to 12 noon.

Heartstart is a two-hour course covering the recognition of life threatening conditions, such as choking and heart attacks, and what actions should be taken immediately. It is available to everyone and it's free!

CARERS' CENTRE BRIDGEND Carers' Centre is based at 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (telephone 01656 658479).

Today, (March 27) at 4pm there will be a showing of the comedy film *Quartet* starring Pauline Collins, Tom Courtenay, Billy Connolly and Maggie Smith. To book a place phone the above number; entry £3 includes refreshments.

On March 28, the outreach group will be at the Princess of Wales hospital to offer advice and

support, 10am to 12 noon.

On the same morning, in the centre, there will be an information and ovarian cancer awareness morning, with a representative of the cancer action group. Ovarian cancer is the fifth most common cancer in women, and approximately 7,000 women are diagnosed with the disease each year.

On Monday, March 31 and April 7 and 14, there will be the book Cwtch between 1pm and 2pm.

On April 2, the Community Café will be open between 12.30pm and 3.30pm, and on April 3, the outreach group will be at Velindre Hospital to offer advice and support, with a representative of Macmillan cancer support.

SCHOOL'S THANKS

MARTIN GRIFFITHS, headteacher of Tynrhyl primary school, would like to thank the community of Llangeinor for the tremendous effort they have put into helping the school transform the early years yard and computer suite.

The cost of the items has been nearly £20,000 and the PTFA have helped purchase computers and ipads etc, and supplied the sports teams with the best kit.

The computer suite known as the 'Discovery Den' has been an important facility at the school, as it has also helped parents with language support and catch-up sessions.

SONG COMPETITION

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir is helping to organise the Dunraven Welsh young singer of the year competition at Maesteg town hall on Saturday, April 12 at 7pm.

Those competing are as follows: Finalists, junior section - Kate Layland, Naomi Jenkins, Emily Hunt, Anwen Angharad Dixon, Sebastian Waters.

Senior section - Charlotte Skidmore, Micheala Parry, Eirlis Myfanwy Davies, Rianon Llewellyn, Reserve, Rachel Maby.

SCHOOL'S NEW

TONDU Primary School's application for an

additional classroom to be provided at the school has been approved, and construction works begin on April 7.

The car park at the school will be only used by the contractors for the duration of the work. Please be aware that heavy plant to be used on the site will be transported along the residential road; park with care.

The footpath from Dunraven Street to the school, which has not been adopted, will be closed as it leads directly into the construction area. Anyone who normally uses this path will have to use alternative routes.

The only entry and exit to the school from March 31 will be through the main office gate.

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Mr Hopkins - 6 Woodlands Park, Pencoed - Remove overhanging branches of oak tree and reduce height and general maintenance of hedgerow.

Mrs G Hegarty - Park Wood, Park Street, Bridgend - Programme of works to various trees including felling.

J D Wetherspoon - The Wyndham Arms, Dunraven Place, Bridgend - One hanging sign.

AC Property Developments - The Old Fire Station, Pandy Park, Aberkenfig - Alterations and extension to existing store at rear to form office and store.

Mr Kerry Price - 13 Market Street, Bridgend - Change of use to computer repair business.

Ms Amy Theophilus - 12 Uxilla Terrace, Bridgend - Two storey extension to rear.

Kwik Fit Ltd - Picton Court Retail Park, Waterton - Replacement corporate signage.

Tesco Stores Ltd - Cowbridge Road, Bridgend - Various fascia signage.

Mr M Owen - Maes y Deri House, Heol Wastadwaun, Pencoed - Remove limb of Ash tree, cut back branches on Spruce and possible crown lift.

Rhian Birch - Ty Toncwdd, Cowegnant Road, Maesteg - Change of use of land to include into curtilage of dwelling and construct driveway.

G A Caerau Enterprise Ltd - 173 Caerau Road, Maesteg - Change of use from post office to hair salon, tanning salon and amusement centre.

Mr P Hearne - 9 Adams Avenue,

Bryncethin - Proposed erection of three-bed detached dwelling. CA Construction Ltd - RC Social Club, 23a Bethania Street, Maesteg - Demolish RC Social Club and ancillary buildings and 23a Bethania Street.

Mr and Mrs Dean and Ceri Pennell - 11 Heol y Blodau, Bridgend - Single storey side extension.

Mrs Nikki Furness Jones - 7 Bredenbury Gardens, Porthcawl - Three bedroom bungalow in rear garden.

UK Power Reserve Ltd - Ex-gas holder site, Moor Lane, Porthcawl - Develop a small scale standby electricity generation plant.

Mrs Ceri Millar - 8 Well Street, Porthcawl - Change of use from hairdressers (A1) to accountants (A2).

Archiception Ltd - Cwmdru Isaf Farm, Maesteg - Screening option for proposed solar farm.

Mr L Evans - Woodlands, 1 Heol Glynpandy, Llangeinor - Demolish garage and rebuild with pitch roof and study in roof space and install outdoor swimming pool.

Ward Jones Bridgend Ltd - Plot 30, Aneurin Bevan Avenue, Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, Brynmenyn - Change of use from container storage depot to B1, B2 and/or B8 uses.

Mr John James - 30 Nicholls Avenue, Porthcawl - Single storey porch extension to front garden to replace existing.

Grayson Enterprises Ltd - Llys Gwyn Residential Home, Heol Broom, Maudlam, Bridgend -

Alterations and extension to existing residential home.

Mr Alun Lewis Davies - 56 Salisbury Road, Maesteg - Demolition of existing garage and erection of detached domestic garage.

Mr Griffiths - Blue Seas Guest House, 72 Beach Road, Porthcawl - Change of use from guest house and cafe into five self-contained flats.

Mr Craig Lamin - 1 Potters Green, Bryncethin - Detached garage.

Mr David Bayham - 58 Duffryn Oaks Drive, Pencoed - Single storey extension.

Mr David Powell - 21 Crossfield Avenue, Porthcawl - First floor extension.

Lisa Hopkinson - Tidal lagoon scheme, Swansea - Obs for construction of tidal lagoon scheme.

Mr Hopkin Davies - 101 Bridgend Road, Maesteg - Single storey rear extension (in addition to approved P/10/731/FUL).

TGC Renewables Ltd - Land west of Porthcawl Road, North Cornelly - Screening option for solar PV farm.

JD Wetherspoon Plc - 3-7 Commercial Street and FMR New Theatre site, Maesteg - Alts to existing public house, change of use of betting shop and New Theatre Site to A3 and new beer garden to rear.

Mr and Mrs D K and H Stenner - Land adjacent Tre Ethwil, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr - Demolition of disused hall and erection of one dwelling.

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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Young man jailed for sexually abusing a child

USING an iPod as a bribe, a young man sexually abused a child, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

Alan Morris, 19, of Bryn Golau in

Bryntirion, Bridgend, was sent to a young offender institution for two and a half years.

He had admitted five specimen charges of sexual assault on a child under 13 before Bridgend magistrates and

had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Prosecutor David Thomas said that, at the time, Morris was living elsewhere in Bridgend county borough.

In October, the victim said: "He's touched me. It's been happening a long time."

She was interviewed by the police and described in detail what had occurred.

On one occasion, she said, he'd indecently touched her in a swimming pool.

When Morris was arrested, he admitted what he had done and said he'd started some years before.

The girl later said she'd been disgusted by his behaviour and added that Morris had bribed her by telling her she could use his iPod.

Andrew Davis, defending, said "Clearly, he's a person who has had serious difficulties in his life."

"He was taken into care at the age of 11 because of neglect. He has the numeracy and literacy of a 10-year old."

Mr Davis said he did not fully understand why he acted as he did and perhaps never will.

"There is deep remorse for the harm he has done and he has learnt a lesson. While on remand in custody in Parc Prison, Bridgend, he found the environment difficult to cope with. He is very vulnerable".

Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones said: "an aggravating feature is the prolonged period of offending. Were you an adult, with full understanding of what you did, you would receive a very long prison sentence indeed."

"You have many problems and you are still very much a child in your maturity."

He said he would continue to have developmental difficulties.

The judge made a sexual offences prevention order indefinitely, banning him from having unsupervised contact with people under 18. He was banned from working with children for life, and ordered to register on his release as a sex offender for life.

PORTHCAWL PUB'S DOORMEN CAUGHT MAN WITH COCAINE

A DEFENDANT who acted as a "warehouseman" for a quantity of cocaine has been jailed for 20 months, the sentence suspended for two years at Cardiff Crown Court.

The offence came to light when doormen at the Hi-Tide pub at Porthcawl became suspicious.

Simon Jenkins, 25, a father of three, of Hazel Court, Tonyrefail, had admitted possessing cocaine with intent to supply.

On September 28, said prosecutor Kayley Simmons, doormen saw Jenkins walking out of the guests' lavatory laughing.

He was taken to the manager's office and when searched, he was found to have 11 bags of cocaine which, he said, was on behalf of a friend.

He said, "It is cocaine, but it's not mine, I'm looking after it."

The drugs were worth £550. His counsel, Martin Kelly, said: "People who look after drugs for others take a risk. His reward was a small amount of cocaine for himself."

"In the lavatory, he had been seen in a state of euphoria".

Fortunately, said Mr Kelly, he had a strong and permanent relationship.

"He was caught in the most stupid of circumstances."

Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones said: "Many people have a cavalier attitude to Class-A drugs."

"For 10 years I have sat in these courts and seen the totally destructive effect cocaine and heroin have had on people, individuals and families. On some

occasions these drugs can kill.

"If you are still taking drugs, stop it or it will destroy you."

He said Jenkins had had 11 street deals in a public place when he was acting as a warehouseman. He added: "I decided I'm going to show you mercy. If you let me down, I'll get to know about it and you'll end up in prison."

He was also ordered to carry out 200 hours' unpaid work and to be on supervision for a year. In addition, there was a victim surcharge of £100.

WHAT'S ON / in brief

Crime prevention

BRIDGEND Police will be holding a crime reduction event on Wednesday, April 9 at Castle Bingo, Bridgend, opened by the Mayor, Coun Clive James at 9.30am.

The local policing team and a number of agencies will give advice on how to keep safe in your home.

Stylish boost for charity

SAMANTHA B of Ewenny is bringing her spring and summer collection to Porthcawl on April 12 to support the local committee for Cancer Research UK at All Saints' Church Hall, 6.30pm.

Top up your wardrobe and enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles for £5. Tickets from Winn Roberts 01656 782880, or Sue Sharp (773670) or pay at the door.

Prison for a Maesteg sex offender

A sex offender who breached a community order has been jailed for eight months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Conrad Flay, 43 of Caerau Road, Maesteg, had been convicted at the Crown Court in February of offences of harassment and indecent exposure. He was given a 24-month community order and a three-month curfew involving electronic tagging.

Prosecutor Kayley Simmons said that on March 17, Flay presented himself at the offices of the probation service.

He'd ripped his electronic tag off his ankle and attempted to kiss a woman member of staff. Probation officers described him as 'unmanageable'.

In court, he repeatedly made outbursts, was taken to the cells, and sentenced in his absence.

His solicitor, Adam Sharp, said Flay came from a difficult background and in 1991 suffered a brain injury which had affected his personality.

Recently, he'd been taking amphetamines.

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- **Industrial illness** including asbestos exposure, crystalline silica exposure, mesothelioma, lung cancer, respiratory disease and deafness.

Katie will be at Brackla Community Centre, 1 Whitethorn Dr, Bridgend CF31 2PQ on the date listed below.

Wed 02 Apr 10am - 4.30pm

No appointment is necessary, we can also arrange free telephone consultations and home visits. Contact:

Katie McCraith

T: 0800 0938240

E: katie.mccraith@hughjames.com

W: www.hughjames.com/bridgend



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Rotarians host an international evening

Guests at the Rotary International evening.



THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl recently had another successful annual international evening at the Hi Tide, hosting 15 international students from Atlantic College, their deputy principal, Nick Lush, and Rotary Interact pupils from St John's School, and other guests.

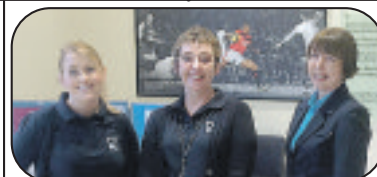
They were entertained by mezzo-soprano, Emily Hunt, who was the Area 7 winner of the Rotary Young Musician of the Year, who was accompanied by Paul Greenway, head of music at Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

After the meal, each student gave their hosts a flavour of their home country and there were songs, poems, national anthems, cultural information with flags and mascots galore.

All the students mentioned the warm welcome they had received since they arrived and that the experience of being in Wales was one they would never forget.

Over £500 was made on the night and this amount will be donated to the Philippines Disaster Appeal following the tropical cyclone Haiyan, which devastated south-eastern Asia last November.

Ivor Williams



PICTURED: Kathryn Fox, Bridgend Women's Aid's support in the community coordinator with Janice King, Barclays business manager and BWA volunteer (left).

Women's Aid is banking on success!

BRIDGEND Women's Aid recently benefited from the services of Barclays business manager, Janice King, as she arranged to highlight the charity and its products across the Barclays banking hall in Bridgend, in a new initiative to profile local business and charities.

Janice King said: "I am committed to finding out more about local businesses and charities to help them achieve their ambitions."

"Bridgend Women's Aid were able to raise awareness, increase their profile and raise funds for their cause, our customers have the opportunity to browse while they bank."

"Bridgend Women's Aid, were also able to encourage customers to nominate women for Bridgend Inspirational Women Awards, launched in partnership with Bridgend Community Safety Partnership and Bridgend County Borough Council."

Kathryn Fox from Bridgend Women's Aid said: "During these difficult times, it is essential that you generate awareness at every opportunity so when Janice King suggested I set up shop in the banking hall I was delighted."

"This initiative has been a great success, with an opportunity to increase our profile and fundraise in a great location at Bridgend branch of Barclays."

Tools With a Mission (Cymru) need your assistance....

TOOLS With A Mission (TWAM) which enables people to earn a living

and to support themselves, collects tools and refurbishes tools and equipment no longer

required in the UK and sends them overseas.

Last year over 200 tonnes of aid (worth over £1m) was shipped from TWAM's distribution warehouse in Ipswich.

TWAM Cymru collects and refurbishes equipment that is donated from across the south and west of Wales, sending some 30 tonnes of tools and equipment through Ipswich since the opening of our unit near Dingle Road railway station in Penarth in early 2010.

We deal with old and unwanted tools, as well as sewing and knitting machines and haberdashery.

We are open each Tuesday and Thursday morning, between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the sorting, cleaning, refurbishment and packaging of donations, especially haberdashery.

For more information contact

twamcymru@twam.co.uk or 07814 573696.

Andy Bowdler (Tools With A Mission regional manager for south and west Wales).

SCARVES IN UNISON..!

THE March meeting of Coity WI was opened by president Lyn Griffiths, who welcomed an impressive number of new members and visitors to the meeting.

Lyn brought us up to date on the interesting events that had taken place over the month; some members had attended an Italian day, others had been on an overnight stay at Denman College, and there had also been a visit to House of Fraser in Cardiff, where the ladies were treated to coffee and croissants, and an unusual demonstration of handbags.

Future events include an outing to see the musical *Wicked* in Cardiff, a trip to the National Botanical Gardens of Wales and to Carmarthen; and to the Brecon Cup event in Miskin.

The speaker for the evening was Rosemary Scadden. The title of her demonstration was 'How to wear your scarf', but what followed was not only a very interesting talk, ranging over a number of fabrics, personalities

and styles, but a fun evening.

To see a room full of ladies moving scarves in unison, was in itself very entertaining!

Members are reminded that the meeting is now held on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm. We meet at Gilead Church Hall, Coity, and new members or visitors are always welcome. ES

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Burglar spotted on Facebook

Report by AJ SICLUNA

A BURGLAR was identified after he was spotted on Facebook, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Aron Taylor (22) of Richard Street, Barry, was jailed for 14 months after he admitted burgling premises in Lombard Street, Barry.

He also admitted being in breach of a conditional discharge for shoplifting.

Said Mr Justice Wyn Williams, "You are a young man and you burgled premises where the occupants were a young couple and a baby. To your credit, once you were disturbed you left without making any threats."

He said the aggravating features were that he had previous convictions for burglary and robbery.

"I have no option but to sentence you to immediate imprisonment."

Prosecutor Hoa Dieu said that on December 29, Taylor broke into the premises. One of the occupants, Rakesh Momi, was asleep on a sofa but was awakened by the presence of Taylor standing in front of him.

The front door had been left unlocked and Taylor made off with a games console and a bottle of vodka.

A police dog later tracked Taylor's scent to Richard Street and Taylor was later spotted on Facebook.

He was arrested and made full admissions.

His solicitor, Derek Gooden, said "He is under no illusion that the sentence will be custody. He co-operated fully and has the benefit of a family behind him."

He was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

Pencoed knitters are celebrating!



Janet Davey, Dianne Dyer and Moira Jones with some of their knitted Easter items that are sold to raise funds for Velindre Hospital.

Photograph by Mandy Thomas (www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk)

THREE ladies from Pencoed were celebrating recently – after one of them was honoured at the Mayor's citizenship awards.

Mrs Dianne Dyer was singled out for her extensive charitable work, and last week at home in Pencoed, she and her

friends, Mrs Janet Davy and Mrs Moira Jones, were still delighted.

The three ladies have been knitting Easter chicks for around 12 years now. They are sold in their local pharmacist, with the proceeds going to Velindre Hospital.

In fact, they regard it as an all-year round-effort, because

as soon as Easter has passed, the 'production line' starts work on knitted Santas.

On top of their efforts with their knitting needles, Dianne Dyer and Janet Davy also volunteer two days a week in the Cancer Research charity shop in Talbot Green.



Dianne with the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Clive James, at the citizenship awards.

Landscapes in new exhibition

MARTYN KAYE, headmaster of Croesty Primary School, Bridgend, is also an artist whose colourful landscapes of the Heritage Coast and Barry are on display at the Travellers Café on platform 1 of Barry Station.

The café is run by the charity Mind in the Vale, with the help of Vale of Glamorgan Artists.

The exhibition may be viewed on weekday mornings from 8am – noon until May 9.



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Sophie had surprise in store for MAWS!



LEFT: Sophie Grabham presents the Iceland cheque to Maureen Edwards, watched by Maesteg Animal Welfare Society supporters.

MAESTEG Animal Welfare Society has received a £100 donation from the Iceland store in the town – thanks to a plea from one of their staff.

Sophie Grabham (20) of Nantyyffyllon, who works part time in the shop, nominated

MAWS after staff were asked to put forward a local charity.

Sophie said that she had heard a lot about the good work done by the charity which rescues hundreds of cats and dogs every year.

Sophie came to the shop to hand over the cheque on behalf of the company and she was

thanked by co-ordinator Maureen Edwards.

Mrs Edwards, who was a founder member of the charity in 1984, said that they were grateful for every donation.

"A donation of £100 can pay for four consultations for local people at the vet, fund one

and a half dogs in kennels for a week or keep one cat in our catteries for nine weeks.

"We rely on the people of Maesteg and Nantymoel to support our two shops.

"We need donations of items for our shops especially as there are organisations buying black bags of clothes from people.

"I would urge everyone to keep on supporting us because we spend all our money helping pets within our local communities.

"We help shoppers

by keeping our prices as low as possible to ensure that they get a good deal.

"I also want to appeal for volunteers especially to man our book stall in Maesteg market.

"The book stall provides us with income but also gives the community a good source of cheap books."

• Anyone who wishes to volunteer, should contact Maureen on 01656-737827, or Sandra on 01639 894178.

Pencoed Phoenix beat Wattstown

PENCOED PHOENIX girls rugby team continued their highly successful season under coach Leanne Casley, when they triumphed over Wattstown Rugby Club with another great performance, displaying a mixture of hard work and flair which has been a feature of this rapidly improving side.

The Phoenix girls, with only 15 players available for selection, suffered a severe early blow when experienced fullback Ceryn Williams starting despite feeling unwell, and was unable to continue after only five minutes of play.

The resulting backline reshuffle was shortlived, after Phoenix winger Megan Lois Griffiths also had to leave the fray after a hand stamping incident left her in severe pain.

Pencoed were forced to enlist the services of the amply-stocked Wattstown bench, and the game finally settled down with both teams looking to play positive rugby.

The first 30 minutes were characterised by thrilling attacking play which time after time was foiled by desperate last-ditch tackling or frustrating, try-denying mistakes – none more so than when strong running Pencoed centre Caitlin Jones, having been riled by a hair-pulling incident, had her barnstorming run halted by her own player, second row forward Hannah Sadie Pound who came off violently second best and required lengthy rib treatment once she had landed.

The final moments of the half saw the Wattstown threequarters, despite some good tackling from ever improving Phoenix winger Jenna Dyckhoff, make a scrappy break down the left.

Five yards short of the line, Pencoed flyhalf Megan Whittaker looked to have finally brought the attack to an end but the Wattstown attacker was too strong and continued her forward momentum.

A try seemed inevitable until Pencoed hooker Jade Thomas, not for the first time this season, arrived from nowhere to bundle the attack into touch, thus ensuring scoreless parity at halftime.

More of the same came in the second half, with good runs from the brave Megan Griffiths, who had rejoined her teammates despite not fully recovering from her injury.

Highlights included some classy work from Pencoed stalwart centre Seren Hart, who gathered her own chip ahead but narrowly missed out on breaking the deadlock; also, a bone-crunching tackle by the tireless Phoenix scrum half Kayleigh Powell on her opposite number.

Having shown plenty of patience previously in dealing with the player's abrasiveness, she showed she has a steeliness to add to her quality all-round game.

With 10 minutes to go, and the game in the balance, it was fitting that the deadlock was broken by some quality rugby rather than by a mistake.

Some good forward interchange in the Wattstown half from Chloe Parrish, Ella Roberts and Drew Ludlow saw Pencoed skipper Amy Morgan receive the ball 20 yards short of the Wattstown line.

Unusually, the skipper declined her usual direct route in favour of a more cultured line, which saw her hit the gaps in the defence and glide through to the line to score a memorable try.

With fly half Whittaker hitting the post with her conversion attempt, the threat of a late match-winning try from a highly-competitive Wattstown team was a very real one.

Some great defence from the 'on loan' Wattstown full back kept her teammates at bay, until one of the tries of the season put an end to the home team's hopes.

From a breakdown on the halfway line, good service from scrum half Powell put Whittaker on the front foot and a glorious dummy saw her carve her way at speed through the Wattstown defence.

Some great support play ensured the move kept its momentum and the ever-present Powell collected the ball 15 yards out to cross for a much-deserved tension-relieving try.

Final score Wattstown 0, Pencoed Phoenix 10.

All are welcome to join this team - to help or play contact coach Leanne Casley on 07921 312897, visit Pencoed Phoenix under-16s girls' Facebook page or call Pencoed RFC on 01656 860152. **RJ**

Portfolios win prizes at photo society



ABOVE: Richard Craze (on right) receives the portfolio trophy.

PYLE & Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual portfolio competition on March 20 at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel in Porthcawl.

It consisted of four images (prints or digital images) from one of the following categories: abstract/close-up, landscape/seascape, nature and portrait/people.

The winner was the photographer with the highest aggregate score for their four images.

Rob Mitchell judged the competition, and not only awarded the marks, but also provided his usual excellent critique on each image.

It was a very close competition and three photographers (Geoff

Baker, Richard Craze and John Corcoran) had the same number of points for first place, so Rob had to decide which panel of images was the ultimate winner. He eventually chose Richard Craze's set.

Just one point behind the leaders was Trevor Owen and just two points behind him were Dave Jones, Geoff Sherriff and Martyn Derbyshire.

Congratulations to Richard on winning the competition, and commiserations to Geoff and John for being pipped at the post in such a tight run-in.

In addition, a big thank you to all who participated for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening.

GLYN EDMUNDS

Two building awards celebrated in Bridgend



PICTURED: Dave Vincent (Llanmoor site manager), Miles Deere (contracts manager) and Jeremy White (site manager) at the awards.

LLANMOOR HOMES is celebrating two local authority Building Control (LABC) building excellence awards from BCBC.

The homebuilder's sold-out Llys Derwen development in Bridgend was awarded 'Best High Volume New Housing Development' and Jeremy White, site manager at the company's Pentre Felin development in Tondur

won 'Best Site Agent'.

The Building Excellence Awards reward high-quality construction and recognise design teams who have overcome technical issues by developing innovative and creative solutions.

The LABC gave credit to Llanmoor for the consistent approach in ensuring a high standard of workmanship, together with a clean and safe site.

The fascinating epitaph in wake of Bligh mutiny

ON March 18, Dr Alastair Cooper gave a fascinating talk at Dinas Powys Probud Club last week entitled 'In the wake of the Bounty.'

Dr Cooper took a degree at Cardiff University in marine studies, is a master mariner, and author of several histories of marine matters.

His talk at Barry Men's Forum related to events leading up to and beyond the mutiny, explaining the reasons why it occurred and the consequences.

The *Bounty* was originally a collier, 90 feet long by 23 feet broad, and had a crew of 39 plus Commander Bligh.

The purpose of the voyage was to gather 750 bread fruit plants from the Pacific island of Tahiti and take them to the West Indies to feed the slaves. The main characters in the tragedy were William Bligh, (aged 33), Fletcher Christian (aged 23), and Tom Ellison, a 15-year-old foundling.

The ship sailed in 1787: Bligh came from a fairly humble background but had become a very skilled navigator and marine cartographer. Unfortunately, he was blessed with an extremely bad temper.

Christian was from a family who were part of the establishment in London society and he resented being criticised by Bligh in front of the crew.

The planned five-month voyage to Tahiti took 10 months due to bad weather and because they arrived after the growing season had passed, there was a further five-month delay.

During the extended stay, the crew formed relationships with the local girls and were reluctant to leave. Bligh's bad temper did not help and eventually the crew, led by Christian, mutinied: 14 were actual mutineers, but 25 wanted to remain loyal to Bligh, including Tom Ellison.

Bligh and 18 supporters were put into a 23-foot-long boat – there was no room for any others and Tom had to be left behind.

They were given bread, rum and water and lived on fish and any birds they could trap. They were facing a voyage to safety of 3,500 miles, with only very basic navigational equipment. Fortunately, Bligh, the expert

navigator and a strict disciplinarian, made sure that the meagre rations were fairly shared out, and he brought all the men to safety at Timor Island in the Dutch East Indies. Bligh then returned to London and was treated as a hero.

Mutiny was regarded as treason in the Royal Navy and the mutineers knew that if caught, they would be hanged.

Those still loyal to the Crown were returned to Tahiti to await rescue, but Christian took the mutineers to Pitcairn Island which, being so remote, would be a safe haven. The *Bounty* was burnt so no escape became possible.

The Admiralty then sent Captain Edward Edwards, who had Welsh connections, on the ship *Pandora* to hunt out the mutineers. The crew numbered 136, including marines to deal with any trouble.

When he arrived in Tahiti, he was regarded as a rescuer, but he placed all the survivors in chains and condemned them to the bilges, refusing to listen to their claims that they had not mutinied.

He was a brutal man with no sentiment. He banned hymn-singing and prayers, believing them to be mutinous chants.

After a fruitless search for the *Bounty* and the mutineers, Edwards set sail for home but *Pandora* was wrecked on the Barrier Reef and 40 men drowned.

At the subsequent court martial, presided over by Admiral Hood, three were sentenced to death, the others transported for life. Young Tom Ellison, was one of those three. He had learnt to read and write during his time in gaol and wrote to Admiral Hood, swearing his loyalty to Bligh and pleading for mercy. However, the Crown was determined to have its revenge and poor Tom was hanged at the yard-arm.

The mutineers who had settled in Pitcairn, together with native Tahitians and women, did not live for long. Jealousy and alcohol caused fighting among them, and they were all dead within a few years.

Descendants of the original settlers, about 30 in number, remain on Pitcairn and depend on financial help from Britain to survive.

The vote of thanks was given by Malcolm McGuire.

IN MEMORY OF HUGH

Former colleagues to support brain tumour charity...

BRIDGEND based property and construction company, Jehu Group, has chosen the UK's foremost brain tumour research organisation as its

charity partner, in memory of a member of staff who lost his battle in September.

Hugh Walker, from Llandow Village, died after being diagnosed just five months earlier.

aged 46. He was the father of four children, Josh, Naomi, George and Jasmine, and husband to Amanda.

Following his family's wishes, the company has chosen to support Brain Tumour Research, due to its

commitment to research, which supports the prevention and treatment of over 120 types of brain tumour.

In the UK, brain tumours are the biggest cancer killer of children and adults under 40, yet research remains underfunded, receiving only 0.7 per cent of national cancer research spending.

As up to 40 per cent of cancer spreads to the brain, research and treatment is crucial due to the rising incidence rate of the disease and its 18.8 per cent five year survival rate.

The partnership will support the charity to manage its existing research centre of excellence in Portsmouth, and launch its new research centres including two in London and one in Plymouth. The centres will aim to establish unprecedented brain tumour research expertise within the UK.

Ian Watson, Head of Fundraising at Brain

Tumour Research, said: "We are honoured to be the Jehu Group's new charity partner. This collaboration will help us in our mission to help people to fight against this devastating disease.

"Ultimately it will lead to better outcomes for patients – from improved awareness for earlier diagnosis, to the development of more effective personalised treatments and targeted drugs. Through the funds generated, we will be able to significantly fast-track progress towards finding a cure for brain tumours."

Simon Jehu, Managing Director of Development at Jehu Group, said: "I am delighted that Brain Tumour Research is our charity partner in remembrance of Hugh Walker. Hugh worked with us at Jehu for nearly ten years as a working foreman, and was a dear friend and colleague.

"Our commitment is a tribute to him, his wife and children, particularly Josh who works with us as a carpenter.

"Brain Tumour Research's inspirational work against brain cancer is vital in order to improve the shocking

survival rates. We are passionate about helping to advance the treatment of brain tumours in adults and children, and the whole company will take part in a sponsored 'Wear a Hat Day' this March.

"We are also holding a team triathlon in September. We raised over £3,000 for charity last year with our inaugural triathlon and we want this year to be even more successful.

"We are hoping to get other companies from our industry involved with a target to double our fundraising from our 2013 total. Teams this year will compete for the Hugh Walker Cup."

Amanda Walker said: "I am truly grateful for all the commitment Jehu Group has shown in remembrance of Hugh. It will be brilliant to support this important cause with the team that Hugh enjoyed working with for many years.

"I can't wait to get involved with the upcoming fundraising plans, knowing that the money raised will significantly aid Brain Tumour Research in its mission to save lives and help treat patients with brain tumours."

Electrification row sees sparks fly at Senedd!

by PHILIP IRWIN

A regional Tory AM, Byron Davies, has challenged the Welsh Government's claims that the UK Government is backing out of promises to fund electrification of railway lines in south Wales.

Mr Davies, who is Shadow Welsh Transport Minister, asked the Assembly's Transport Minister, Justine Greening, "plainly set out the terms of the agreement", whereby the next Wales and Borders franchise specification should include services on the

Government would pay for the electrification of the Valleys lines and also the section of the main line between Cardiff and Bridgend.

Mr Davies stated that a separate letter from the then Westminster Transport Minister, Justine Greening, "plainly set out the terms of the agreement", whereby the next Wales and Borders franchise specification should include services on the

Valleys lines, with a specific access charge on the franchise to repay the infrastructure investment by Network Rail.

The Conservative AM said that The UK Government had agreed, in the same letter, to pay for electrification from London to Cardiff and from Bridgend to Swansea.

He stated that Carl Sargeant had responded in a letter stating, "I too am glad we were able to work together... I can confirm our agreement as set out in your letter".

Speaking afterwards, Mr Davies said: "I am shocked that the <First Minister> Carwyn Jones has decided out of the blue to raise what was a done deal.

"He is now questioning the whole basis of the agreement between the UK and Welsh Governments about the electrification of railways in south Wales.

"The Welsh Government must stand up to the mark and confirm their part of the deal for the benefit of the Valleys and Wales."

Sir Isaac Newton at Pyle church hall!

BRIDGEND Astronomical Society's guest speaker at their March meeting was Professor Mike Edmunds, Emeritus Professor of Astrophysics at Cardiff University and Chair of the Astronomical Heritage Committee of the Royal Astronomical Society, who has a keen interest in the history of astronomy.



Professor Mike Edmunds' alter ego, Sir Isaac Newton. PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLOTTE PEARSON OF PENCOED

He likes nothing better than putting on his one-man play, *Sir Isaac Remembers...* about Britain's greatest scientist, Sir Isaac Newton.

Dressed for the part in period costume, Professor Edmunds, as an ageing Sir Isaac, fascinated his audience through reflecting over Newton's past life from his early schooldays, his subsequent accomplishments at Trinity College, Cambridge, in the fields of mathematics, gravitation and optics, and on his final appointment as Master of the Royal Mint at the Tower of London.

Professor Edmunds brought the part to life with the story unfolding, often hilariously, through the many correspondences in which Newton engaged with his contemporaries and scientific rivals throughout his lifetime.

Norman Lloyd, chairman of the Bridgend Astronomical Society, said: "It was a great privilege for Sir Isaac to visit us at Pyle Church Hall. He was quite a prickly character but he gave a hugely entertaining performance which was, certainly, one of the highlights of our current season."

DEATH AT NASH POINT

A MAN was found dead at Nash Point last Sunday.

In a statement, South Wales Police said: "At 8am on Sunday, March 23, South Wales Police and Coastguard recovered the body of a male person from the beach at Nash Point.

"An investigation is ongoing, however the death is not being treated as suspicious. Enquiries are ongoing to inform the next of kin. HM Coroner has been informed".

It's My Shout gets windfall investment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr Walters added: "The new scheme will give people from all over Wales the opportunity to help meet this demand and form part of the media workforce in Wales; thus developing world-class talent which will not only contribute to inward investment, but also put Wales on the global map."

Rhodri Talfan Davies, Director, BBC Cymru Wales and chair of Creative Skillset Cymru National Advisory Board said: "It's My Shout has given thousands of young people across Wales a head start in the film and television industry – in front and behind the camera.

"A large number of its former trainees are now working worldwide in the creative industries, and our own drama studios at Roath Lock in Cardiff are also benefiting from the talent nurtured by It's My Shout.

"BBC Wales has always been committed to developing new production talent – it's in our DNA – and we're proud of our long association with both It's My Shout and the Creative

Skillset team. The launch of this talent pool for Wales is an important part of building the creative skills base here in Wales.

S4C's Director of Communications, Marketing and Partnerships, Garffid Lloyd Lewis said: "I'm really pleased that It's My Shout Productions have been successful with their funding bid to create a talent pool for Wales.

"This is the second year for S4C to support the It's My Shout project in Wales and this year we look forward to seeing three short films in the Welsh language produced by students working on the project in three communities in Wales.

"The investment from Creative Skillset Cymru is in addition to the It's My Shout Made in Wales film project and S4C is proud to be part of this partnership project as we look to boost the development of creative talent in Wales."

MAN'S LIGHTER FUEL ATTACK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Without any warning, he then sprayed him with lighter fuel and ignited it. Mr Hamer pulled off some of his clothing, and George then repeatedly punched him and bit an ear," added Mr Trigg.

Mr Hamer succeeded in escaping and ran to a neighbour for help.

George, who was drunk, claimed falsely that Mr Hamer had caused family problems.

In the past, he said, Mr Hamer had given the defendant guitar lessons.

George's counsel, Kevin Seal, said that a combination of the death of his mother and the break up of a relationship had made his life spiral out of control.

He added: "He is genuinely remorseful and is disgusted by his behaviour. When arrested, he was heavily intoxicated and angry. In prison, he is about to start an anger management course."

When he is released, said Mr Seal, he wants to make a positive start in life.

Llangewydd pupils make a wish for their future

PUPILS from a Bridgend school have been sharing their hopes for a brighter future for Wales and the planet with Welsh Government minister Jeff Cuthbert.

Ahead of WWF's Earth Hour at 8.30pm on Saturday, March 29, the children and staff of Llangewydd Junior School welcomed the Minister and representatives of WWF Cymru to see their wishes and look around the school's

eco-garden.

During Earth Hour, millions of people across the world will come together in a symbolic and spectacular light outs display.

Last year's record breaking event saw over 154 countries and 7,000 towns and cities taking part.

WWF Cymru is inviting people to make a 'Welsh Wish' online, to complement the Welsh Government's 'National Conversation' on the future of Wales.

Pupils at the school, aged seven to 11, have been making their own Earth Hour stars, with their wishes for the planet's future on topics such as safe cycling, protecting forests and solar power.

Members of the school council presented their wishes to the Minister on his visit on March 17.

PACT meetings

BRYNCEITHIN PACT, April 2 at Nazareth Chapel at 6pm.

SARN / BRYNCOCH PACT, April 7 at Sarn Community Centre at 7pm.

LLANGEINOR PACT, April 9 at The Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.

YNYSAUDRE PACT, April 9 at Ynysaudre Community Centre at 6pm.

ABERKENFIG / PENYFAI PACT, April 14 at Penyfael Chapel at 7pm.

BLACKMILL PACT, April 14 at Blackmill Community Centre at 6pm.

BETTWS PACT, April 17 at Bettws Life Centre at 2pm.

MAESTEG EAST/WEST PACT, April 28 at Cwm Calon Day Centre at 6pm.

BLAENGARW/PONTYCYMER PACT, April 28 at the Garw Valley Leisure Centre at 6pm.

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Ty Hafan family cuts the turf for new playground

A FAMILY supported by Tŷ Hafan marked the start of work on the charity's new desert-island-themed playground on Friday, March 14.

Jacob Ferriday (17) and his mum Sally from Barry, cut the turf at the hospice overlooking the Bristol Channel in Sully.

The entire space will be accessible for wheelchair users and every piece of equipment has been selected with

integration in mind. The state-of-the-art facility will include a race track, wheelchair trampoline, wheelchair see-saw and bespoke lighthouse.

Sally said: "The plans look amazing and I'm sure the children will get so much pleasure from the new facility. We can't wait to see it completed!"

Tŷ Hafan's chief executive Ray Hurcombe commented: "We are delighted to be starting work on this fantastic new playground and it was wonderful to see Jacob and

Sally mark the occasion at our turf cutting ceremony.

"We are passionate about providing our families with unique and enriching experiences and this is a fantastic example of Tŷ Hafan leading the way in children's palliative care.

"We could not complete projects like these without the generosity of our supporters and I'd like to thank our corporate sponsors and of course, the public, for their kind support."

Real Radio presenter Jason Harrold attended the ceremony,

along with Johanne Stacey-Davies from Dow Corning. Real Radio's 'bring a £1 to work appeal' contributed £38,000 and Dow Corning donated £22,000 towards the new playground.

J.L. Harrison Enterprise Fund, Making a Difference Locally Ltd, The Waterloo Foundation, The Freemasons Grand Charity, Barclays Wealth, Mumbles Community Council, Co-operative Employee Benefits and Ortho-clinical Diagnostics also made significant donations towards the project.



ABOVE:
Real Radio's
Jason Harrold,
Sally Woodham-
Allen with her son
Jacob Ferriday,
Simon Peters from
Real Radio,
Johanne
Stacey-Davies
from Dow Corning
and Tŷ Hafan CEO
Ray Hurcombe.

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Our GEM Facebook winner for March 20 is:

Janet Morgan

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was: **WALES!**

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

Our lucky winner has chosen to spend their prize with...

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'Cautious welcome' for passenger rise at Cardiff Airport

NEWS that Cardiff Airport has seen a 10 per cent rise in passenger numbers has been "cautiously welcomed" by Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM.

However, "providing value for money would be paramount in making Cardiff Airport sustainable," he added.

The regional AM for South Wales Central, who has been an outspoken critic of the purchase of the airport by the Assembly Government, said: "Recent progress is certainly cause for optimism but these are early days.

"Passenger numbers are just part of the picture and to put this into perspective, based on Welsh Government spend to date, each new passenger equates to around £750 per head.

"What the airport really needs, beyond additional routes and

passenger numbers, are competitive prices. When you hear from holidaymakers first-hand that it can be as much as £1,000 cheaper for a family of four to fly from Gatwick instead of Cardiff, it really puts the challenge into perspective."

Mr Davies also suggested that freight performance would be a vital indicator of recent performance, and hoped positive developments would enable Welsh taxpayers to receive a return on their investment.

"Freight is equally important as a gauge of an airport's success and it will be interesting to see what progress, if any, the Welsh Government has made in boosting volumes in the year it has run the airport.

"Ultimately, I hope that each new positive development will bring us closer to seeing some of this huge outlay returned to taxpayers' pockets, with the airport returning to private ownership," he added.

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Life and times of a liberated woman... (part 2)

by NANCY DAVIDGE

IN 1931, my family moved from the hustle and bustle of London to the tranquil village of Staunton in the Forest of Dean, near Monmouth.

It was indeed Utopia for my brother and myself. We could roam the forest, carving our names on the trees, watch the deer and other wildlife species.

We attended school in Coleford and one day my teacher told my class to write an essay on Horatio Nelson. On reading my work, my teacher accused me of cheating. I was made to stay behind to show where I had supposedly cheated.

I had not been dishonest. I was eventually allowed to go home with the threat I would be dealt with the following day.

I was walking the long, lonely road home when a van stopped and the driver asked me to get in, saying he

would take me home.

I had been warned by my parents never to accept rides by a stranger. I began running back towards Coleford, looking behind to see the van turning with the intention I am pretty sure of abducting me.

I kept running. I saw the Monmouth bus approaching and fortunately the conductor was my friend's brother, who made sure I was safely in my own home, within an hour.

A constable from Monmouth came to my home asking for details of the van and driver. Who knows what may have happened if the bus had not arrived?

My parents insisted on an apology from the teacher, who was also suspended for some time. The fact was I did not cheat.

NEXT: *The looming war years ...and my first love.*



COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Llangan school
ON Tuesday (March 25) children from years 3 – 6 took part in a hockey tournament at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

The children were hoping to meet former pupils from Llangan school.

Today, March 27 years 3 and 4 were invited to the Tesco Tythingwysa dairy farm to learn all about where food comes

from!

Standstill

WORK at the former garden centre at Fferm Goch has come to a standstill, although all the former buildings have been demolished, also the glass structures.

All that remains is an enormous mound of sawdust, a notice on the perimeter fence seems to denote there is a possible change to the original plans.

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Suspended sentence for 'sophisticated' cannabis growers

A sophisticated cannabis-growing operation in a flat in Pencoed was "nipped in the bud" when police officers carried out a search, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

They discovered 14 plants with a potential yield worth £8,400,

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

said prosecutor David Webster.

Ian Tomlinson (29) and Leon Young (27) of Caeau Duon, Pencoed, each admitted producing cannabis.

Each was sentenced to eight months imprisonment,

suspended for 18 months. Tomlinson was ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work, and Young was ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work. Each was also made subject to a supervision order.

Judge Rhys Rowlands said: "Fortunately, this operation was nipped in the bud". He said the fact that they pleaded guilty was important. It was, he said, a reasonably sophisticated operation based in a garage.

Some of the drugs, he said, would have been supplied to others. The offence, he said, was not at the top end of this bracket.

Mr Webster said that on September 27, the police searched the premises and found 14 plants, fans and a basic watering system.

The defendants were not present and later surrendered to the police.

Young admitted the offence and said he was the owner of the flat in which Tomlinson also rented a room.

The plants were about two weeks old, with a yield of about £8,400.

Tomlinson was said to have a conviction for driving with excess alcohol and to have been cautioned for possessing drugs.

Young had convictions for violent disorder, causing damage, making threats and possessing Class A drugs.

The roles of the two, the court heard, were equal.

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Somerset farmers' benefit evening 'just like Christmas!'

GLAMORGAN YFC and Glamorgan NFU recently joined forces with NFU Mutual to raise money for Somerset farmers affected by recent floods.

The event was held at Barry Memorial Hall. Due to demand, extra space was sought, increasing the capacity to 400. Ticket sales made a significant start to the fundraising by making £7,000.

The evening was hosted by Glamorgan NFU chairperson, Abi Reader and Glamorgan YFC chairperson, Beth John and saw the seven young farmers' clubs entertain the guests in a variety of acts.

Opening the evening was Wick YFC who performed their recent entertainment 'Glam Air', followed by singing, dancing, comedy sketches and a performance by the Glamorgan YFC Choir, who are representing Wales in the national



Glamorgan NFU chair Abi Reader (left) with Glamorgan YFC chair, Beth John.

final in May. The finale was provided by current Glamorgan champions, Maendy YFC, performing 'Return to Paradise'.

This was a final dress rehearsal for the Maendy cast before they went to Llandudno to compete in the Wales finals.

Raffle tickets were available, and Philip Thomas (Herbert R Thomas) received bids from very generous guests.

Auction prizes were gratefully received from local and national businesses including BOCM, Countrywide,

TH White, David Evans Agricultural Ltd, Watson Fuel, two local contractors, and vets.

Thirty auction prizes were offered in total, including items such as 10 acres of grass silage foraging, 20 acres maize drilling, 500 litres red diesel, 500 litres heating oil, two lawn mowers, fencing course, digger hire and skid steer hire.

The auction made £8,000, which has been estimated at 1.5 per cent more than its retail value.

The raffle was equally as successful, with calving survival packs, boiler suits, food hampers, a professional

cake, pub lunches and gift vouchers. Numerous local businesses and private individuals got involved – not just those in agriculture but the wider rural community too.

Glamorgan NFU chair Abi Reader said: "It was like Christmas when the items started coming through the door."

The proceeds of the raffle provided an extra £2,000 for the fundraising pot.

Sponsorship for the theatre hire was provided by Bridgend NFU Ladies, as well as private donations from organisations such as The Vale of Glamorgan Show, Glamorgan Farmers Club, Glamorgan NMR Herd Competition, Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society, while Glamorgan NFU contributed £4,000 to partly cover food costs and as a donation to the cause.

The night was a great success and an excellent opportunity for farmers, young farmers and the wider community to get together. It also proved that good can be done when organisations work together. The generosity people showed on the evening was incredible and a fine demonstration of farmers and their supporting industries standing together.

The grand total raised was a whopping £20,000, which will be donated to a special fund set up under the umbrella of the Addington Trust for a recovery fund for farmers.

HANNAH LEWIS

NUT strike hits schools

THERE was confusion for parents in the Vale and Bridgend County borough yesterday (Wednesday) after the National Union of Teachers voted for a national strike in response to proposed changes by the Government to the teachers' pensions scheme, pay and conditions of service.

The effect was mixed, with both councils posting information in the morning about the situation.

More schools were affected in the Vale, where 11 schools were closed, and 28 described as partially open.

In Bridgend county borough, the early morning information was that four schools were closed, and six partially open.

"He is a sweet natured boy who would be happy to curl up on the sofa and watch Cardiff City after a long day's play. We are really hoping that our Ole won't be left on the bench much longer – he is such a fantastic dog who deserves to find a loving home for life."

Anyone interested in re-homing Ole can visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Dogs Trust Bridgend has dogs of all shapes and sizes looking for homes, and staff will consider a wide range of homes and circumstances, providing that they fit the requirements of the dog and provide it with a loving, lasting home.

LINDA FEAGAN (Supporter Relations Officer, Dogs Trust Bridgend)



Playful Ole demonstrates his football skills...

DOGS Trust Bridgend is appealing to dog loving football fans to help a very special four-legged footie fan win his perfect match.

Staff have named the playful pooch after footballing legend Cardiff City manager and former Manchester United striker Ole Gunnar Solskjær, who donated a recent TV appearance fee, along with club owner, Tan Sri Vincent Tan, to Dogs Trust.

The donations are helping the re-homing centre to care for 'Ole' and his friends as they wait for new owners to come along.

The three-year old crossbreed ended up at the Re-homing Centre in Bridgend through no fault of his own, when his owner was no longer able to care for him.

The footie-loving pooch is desperate to find a new best friend to play endless games of chase. He is a fetch fanatic who cannot resist bounding after a ball.

Like any footballer, he would also benefit from a little extra training, so needs a patient adult owner to help him settle in and become part of the family.

Linda Feagan, Dogs

Council measures are geared to protecting Vale's major services

SINCE my last column, the council has moved forward with various projects. As well as setting the budget – we have protected the major services and not made savage cuts, unlike other councils.

I should emphasise that we have been able to do this because of this administration's long-term budget strategy.

We have maintained funding for social services and we continue to work very closely with the health sector.

It was, therefore, my pleasure to open the new Vale Community Resource Service at Barry Hospital on March 20, along with the Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas AM.

This is an example of collaborative working between the Vale Council and Cardiff & Vale UHB, and has enabled the team to be fully co-located in this superb facility.

This community-based integrated health and social care rehabilitation/ablement service is operated by both UHB and Vale Council staff.

They provide wide and diverse professional services and create a single point of access and contact for health, social care and the third sector services, allowing a co-ordinated response to individual users, speeding up these services, which helps achieve Welsh Government priorities.

LDP confusion IN relation to the current stage of the Local Development Plan (LDP) process, there seems to be some confusion.

The council agreed its Draft LDP. It then had to follow the legislative process by consulting on that Draft Plan and receive any 'Alternative Sites' put forward, as an alternative to those in the Draft Plan.

All consultation comments and 'Alternative Site' suggestions have been received, logged and those comments/sites are on our website for inspection.

To complicate matters, we now, legally, have to ask for further consultation on the 'Alternative Sites' proposed.

I have to stress that these newly-suggested 'Alternative Sites' have not been agreed by the council.

Once this second consultation is complete,

VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of the
Vale of
Glamorgan
Council

the council can consider any 'Focus Changes' (if any) it needs to agree, always provided those changes do not deviate from the original strategy.

I understand that the process is complex, but we have to abide by the legislation in going forward.

If anyone has any problems, or wants to raise any issues, please contact the council, as indicated on our website, at valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/lp.

Island progress

WE are continuing with the regeneration work at Barry Island which is progressing well. Work is also under way to refurbish the Western Shelter toilets in time for Easter and the new tourist season.

In relation to further changes on the Island, it is also proposed that our tourism, events and Barry Island resort manager and their teams will be relocating to the upper floors of the old tourist information centre (TIC).

This will put our dedicated officers at the heart of this tourist resort, with the ability to also manage the other tourist areas throughout the Vale of Glamorgan from that base.

I think this is a very good use of a council

building and will be advantageous to both traders and visitors alike.

It is also envisaged that the bottom floor could be leased to an organisation with a viable business plan at a reasonable rental, as can the resort manager's building on the seafloor, which is soon to be vacated, as a result of this alternative use of the TIC.

Access work

IN another recently completed seaside initiative, the new Llantwit Major slipway, which gives better access to the beach, was recently completed and according to early reports, the good weather has brought many people out to enjoy the beach.

In relation to the access ramps to Whitmore Bay on Barry Island, work is on-going and they will be repaired

as soon as possible.

Let's hope for a hot summer when we can all enjoy what I consider to be one of the best coastlines in Wales – and on our doorstep.

I suspect that many have noticed that work has begun on the road improvements from Gileston Cross to the Old Mill, St Athan.

This is long overdue and will make the road much safer for all users. Continuing with that theme, we have had further discussions with Welsh Government about it funding road improvements to Five Mile Lane.

I look forward to those discussions continuing in order to achieve this much-needed work and give better access to the airport, the Enterprise Zone and Barry from the A48.

Youth service

FINALLY, I would like to refer to the youth service and the potential changes to the way their service is delivered, as recently reported to cabinet and highlighted in the press.

Contrary to certain rumours, this will include a 'hub' in Cowbridge, as well as the other major towns, and complemented by street-based activities in other areas.

MAESTEG ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY



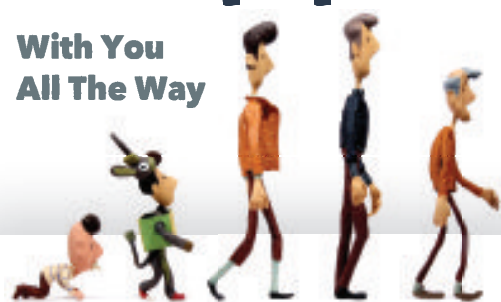
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Question Time taster for Vale village competition

Picture by
HEATHER MARCH



THE gardening question time recently held at Dyffryn Gardens was hailed as a great success by the chairman of the Best Kept Village Competition, Irena Wasilewska.

She said: "We were delighted to welcome nearly 60 people to a very pleasant afternoon in which members of the audience asked their gardening questions and exchanged views with a panel of very well informed gardening experts."

"My thanks go to the panellists, Clare Revera from Out to Learn Willow; www.outtolearnwillow.co.uk; Alex Luker, Head Gardener at Dyffryn Gardens; Ennid Hart, former Pencoed College

lecturer, and Claire Jenkins from Bordervale Plants

www.bordervale.co.uk who gave up their time and helped make this an interesting and enjoyable afternoon."

The 2014 Best Kept Village Competition will be getting under way in the next few weeks. There is a 'special feature' category whereby a village feature, such as a pond, village green, or area of waste land, could be transformed into a feature for all residents to enjoy.

The judges are keen to point out that the competition is not about pretty villages with quaint features. Rather it is an excellent opportunity to bring the community together while at the same time improving the

appearance of an area and bringing pleasure and a sense of achievement to all those involved with its improvement.

Judging will take place between June 23 and July 11, and the winners will be

announced at a special awards evening on July 17.

All Vale villages are invited to compete.

For further information, contact Carole Alexander at: carole.alexander1@hotmail.co.uk

WILDLIFE AWARDS

VALE of Glamorgan Biodiversity Partnership 'Awards for Wildlife' competition is again open for entries.

Practical projects that help native wildlife, while engaging children, undertaken by schools, colleges, education centres and children's groups are eligible.

Closing date for entries is Wednesday, April 30 and the winner will receive a trophy during the Grand Parade at the Vale of Glamorgan show on Wednesday, August 13; certificate and £250 prize money, kindly donated by RWE Npower Aberthaw. There are also prizes of £100 and £50 for second and third places.

For further information and an application pack, contact Andrea Rowe at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry CF63 4RT, phone 01446 704631 or email acrowe@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

MANY tenants are unaware that they have a right to make a claim against their landlords for not registering their bonds/deposits.

From April 6, 2007, if a tenant provided their landlord with a deposit for a property it required registration. The time scale varies depending on when the tenant entered the tenancy; however they should have been provided with a registration certificate.

If the landlord failed to register the deposit the tenant can claim up to three times the rent.

Catherine from Newbold Solicitors has had a 100 per cent success rate in bringing claims against landlords on behalf of tenants.

Catherine says: "When I first became a housing solicitor I was always in Court representing tenants who could not get their bonds returned to them from their landlords at the end of their tenancies."

"It was only the bravest tenant who went

through the court process to recover the money that was due to them."

"The Courts were inundated with claims, so in 2007, the Housing Act introduced a bill whereby landlords had to register the bonds in an appropriate within 14 days of receiving it, which has now been increased to 30 days."

"Once the bond was registered if there was a dispute, the scheme would instruct their arbitrator to decide who should have the bond, and whether any deductions could be made."

"However, some landlords still try and keep the bond and this is the reason why the tenants are eligible for damages/compensation."

Some landlords are still unaware of the need to register the bond and they may have the property rented through an agent.

If the agent has not registered the bond, then the landlord may have a claim against the agent for his/her loss.

Further, without the registering of the bond and the serving of a

prescribed notice, it can be more difficult to regain possession of the property.

If you are a tenant, Newbolds may be able to help you on a 'no win no fee' basis; and we may also be able to help

landlords who have not had their bonds registered by their agent.

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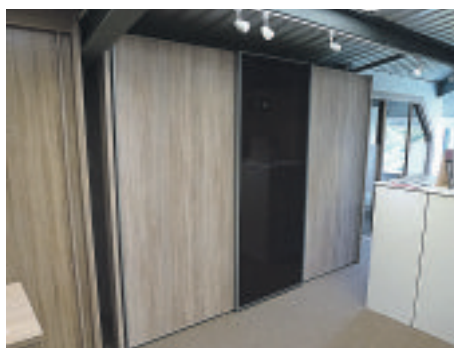
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THE Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel in Coychurch, Bridgend, has been acknowledged as a high-quality four-star venue in the area for some time now, but a new £350,000 investment is aiming to take it on to the next level.

It is all part of a constant improvement programme that is designed to place the historic hotel right at the forefront of south Wales' hotels.

What's more, the investment will create new jobs in the area, and it sends a strong message that the Coed-y-Mwstwr is a hotel that is going places.

Ironically, the Coed-y-Mwstwr's secluded location, which is such an important feature of the hotel, means that local people tend to be unaware of the changes that have already taken place over the last 14 years.

Guests who have stayed there are full of praise for the hotel, and they certainly appreciate all the new facilities, and also enjoy the surrounding 17 acres of woodland and countryside.

It is even better for golfers, as they are right next door to a golf course!

However, for many local people it may be a while since they visited, – and they simply don't know what they are missing.

Now, this new £350,000 investment offers the chance to see just what has been happening at the Coed-y-Mwstwr.

So how is the money being spent? Well, the Town & Country Hotels Group has marked 14 successful years in charge by developing the Hendre Function Suite.

The group also owns The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge, the New House Country Hotel in Cardiff, as well as its outside catering operation, Town & Country Catering.

The Hendre Function



Room has been extended in response to demand, while the access and facilities have been vastly improved, in keeping with the newly-refurbished accommodation throughout the hotel.

The Managing Director of the Town & Country Hotels Group, Julian Hitchcock, originally bought the Coed y Mwstwr Hotel as a three-star country house hotel from Virgin Hotels in 1999.

The hotel had been through a number of

owners in the 80s and 90s, but Mr Hitchcock could see real potential.

It has since gone on to achieve the prestigious four-star rating, as well as gaining two rosettes for the award-winning restaurant.

Julian said: "We were frequently asked by our current and potential customers for a meeting area to accommodate a large stage set, with improved disabled access – and I am pleased to say we have been able to achieve this."

"We've also ensured that the design, while modern, is in keeping with the hotel and its character – our new internal ceiling now boasts some amazing beams."

"The response from our many guests, both for business and weddings has been very positive. We've also created a number of new jobs over the years, including the most recent appointments to tie in with the expansion."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)



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COED-Y-MWSTWR HOTEL - Bridgend

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

Julian added: "Investment back into the business has always been important to me and it is what has helped maintain our four stars and the standard that represents."

"The latest development will give the hotel the additional capacity it needs as we look to host larger scale events in Bridgend county."

"We're also planning to further develop our outside space to encourage more team building and corporate events."

Since Town & Country bought the hotel 14 years ago, there have been plenty of other extras added, including a gymnasium and a sauna – while there have been extensive interior refurbishments as well.

The 35 individually decorated en-suite bedrooms ensure all modern comforts and facilities are provided.

Weddings have become more and more popular, and this can only increase now that the larger function room is added to the overall offer.

Afternoon champagne teas have also been a recent addition, and a number of people have used this as a chance to take a good look at this elegant country house, built in 1888, that is now a haven for visitors and guests.

Few settings are more aptly named, for Coed-y-Mwstwr translates as 'Whispering Trees' – and the continued investment in this 'hidden gem' will build on this sense of tranquillity – and create a venue that aims to meet the expectations of their guests from far and wide.



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Ffion (12) and friends wear purple in Epilepsy Week



ABOVE : Ffion's friends go purple for Epilepsy Week.

TWELVE-year-old Ffion Williams from Treoes, who suffers from epilepsy, arranged for her friends to dress in purple as part of Epilepsy Week, and invited Vale MP Alun Cairns to join them.

Ffion said she was diagnosed with temporal lobe epilepsy last autumn and that the seizures have a serious impact: "Although my intelligence level is the same, my speech sounds like a six-year-old, although I am actually 12."

"It can be quite

emotional and comical at the same time. Sometimes I do a funny dance and occasionally swear! I don't remember the seizures happening, but they occur every evening. I don't remember any evening since last November."

"I want Mr Cairns to help raise the matter in Parliament and with the National Assembly, because many people are misdiagnosed."

The MP commented: "Ffion is remarkable. I am hugely impressed with her maturity and attitude. Along with her parents, she is

determined to help ensure that people are properly diagnosed. There is evidence that suggests the symptoms can be misunderstood."

"I have tabled questions in Parliament to establish what networks exist between specialist doctors and want to work with Epilepsy UK to ensure GPs receive the information they need."

"There are tens of different types of epilepsy, often with different symptoms. I want to ensure that our local doctors are part of the UK network of specialists," he vowed.

BHBI donates £1,000 to Macmillan charity



BHBI's director of strategic operations Paul Haley is pictured left, with Rebecca Parke of Macmillan, and BHBI's managing director Mark Barnes on the right.

BHBI has donated £1,000 to Macmillan Cancer Support for the second consecutive year.

Director of strategic operations, Paul Haley said: "As the UK's largest private sector provider of professional Internal Audit training, we strongly believe in social responsibility and are delighted to have made a £1,000 donation to such a worthwhile charity on behalf of all our Internal Audit students."

"This is the second successive annual donation and shows our

commitment to building on our growing relationship with Macmillan. We further hope we can encourage our Alumni to also support our charitable aims which will demonstrate that we and our fellow internal audit profession colleagues care about the society in which we operate."

Rebecca Parke, Fundraising Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support said: "I want to say a huge thank you to everyone at BHBI for choosing to support Macmillan Cancer Support by raising funds with a donation from student enrolments."

The donation came as a result of a training course discussion with students during a module on corporate social responsibility. Following a class debate, BHBI staff decided that there was an opportunity for the company to make a bigger difference and show that BHBI and the Internal Audit community can make an impact on wider society.

'VALE OF JAM' PLAY SCARLETS!

LOCAL acoustic duo The Vale of Jam-Morgan will be playing at Scarlets bar, Broad Street, Barry this Saturday (March 29) from 9pm.

With an eclectic mix of material spanning the 1960s to the present day, featuring songs from The Beatles to Pharrell, they're a live act not to be missed!



ABOVE: Prof Egan with Jane Hutt and Coun Elmore and staff and students at Cardiff and Vale College.

Vale challenge to 'realise every child's potential'

CIVIC and business leaders have been warned – "we need to be clear about the challenge in realising the potential of every child in the Vale".

It came at the 14th annual spring breakfast on Friday (March 21) held by Vale AM Jane Hutt at Cardiff and Vale College in Barry, when the theme was 'Education in the Vale', with guest speakers Prof David Egan and Coun Chris Elmore.

Professor Egan's message was that the task requires leadership and engagement from the early years with families, communities, governors and

parents, overcoming barriers and disadvantage, through Welsh Government programmes like Flying Start and Families First.

Ms Hutt commented: "This was my 14th spring breakfast in the Hospitality Suite at Colcot Road, Barry, cooked and served by students, providing valuable work experience as part of the course at the college."

"I congratulated the students on their culinary and hospitality skills and told them that they had good job and career prospects to meet the growing tourism and hospitality sector in Wales," the AM added. (See page 9).

Local primary pupils' six-mile chariot pull



ABOVE; The five charioteers.

FIVE pupils from year-6 in Llancarfan Primary School raised £441.57 with a 6-mile chariot pull dressed as sports stars.

Sam, Harry, Dylan, Joe and Gruff took turns to pull the chariot through the village of Llancarfan.

It was a magnificent effort and we'd like to congratulate the boys on a job well done!

The boys would like to thank all those who donated. If others would like to contribute, please use just giving page <http://www.justgiving.com/jford4>. JF

Shy U3A shine!

DESPITE the considerable opposition of teams from Maesteg (two) Bridgend (two) Cardiff (two) and Porthcawl (one), all of whom were generous and gracious losers, Cowbridge U3A emerged as what must be assumed to be Glamorgan, if not Wales', U3A quiz champions.

As is our unassuming nature, we will not name ourselves as Fran, Hywel, Steve, Dafydd and Tim. TB

'Repair park wall' – CALL

RESIDENTS living in the Bassett area of Barry are calling for the Vale of Glamorgan Council to take action on a damaged park wall.

The call was made at the recent Court PACT meeting, where they asked for action to repair the damaged wall between Bassett Park and the Tadross Pub.

Local councillor Richard Bertin says he has now taken the matter up with the authority. He says he agrees with local residents as there is both a safety and security issue at the park.

HOW BRITAIN PREPARED TO KEEP HITLER AT BAY

Wartime anti-tank defences uncovered by recent storms

by **Keith E Morgan**

FOLLOWING the evacuation of British and Allied Troops from Dunkirk in May/June 1940, under 'Operation Dynamo', British anti-invasion preparations were quickly put into force.

These entailed a large-scale division of military and civilian mobilisation in the response to the immediate threat of a German invasion.

After the defeat of the British Expeditionary Force in France, as part of the anti-invasion preparations, 1.5 million men were enrolled in the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV) to be changed later to the Home Guard, while the rapid construction of field defences transformed much of Britain into a prepared battlefield. The German invasion plan, code named 'Operation Sea Lion' never got beyond the preliminary preparation stages but nevertheless, the threat of an invasion was real and seemed imminent at the time.

Anti-invasion measures involved the Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force as well as the setting up of field fortifications. Any invasion would have to involve the landing of troops and equipment along the coastline, the most vulnerable areas being the east and south coasts of England and the coastline of the Bristol Channel.

Emergency coastal batteries were constructed to protect ports and likely landing places.

I can remember visiting a number of these batteries before they were recovered after the war at Porthcawl and Mumbles, Swansea.

Vulnerable beaches were protected in a number of ways: where a barrier to landing craft and tanks was required, such as along the coast at Rest Bay in Porthcawl, where miles of open beach stretch at low tide as far as Mumbles Head in Swansea, Admiralty scaffolding was constructed.

This was also known as beach scaffolding or obstacle Z.1 and was essentially a fence or barrier of scaffolding tubes, railway lines or lengths of angle iron set 9 feet (2.7 m) high upright in the sand at low water, so that tanks could not get a good run at the barrier should they ever succeed in landing.

Rest Bay in Porthcawl



The author with grandmother, mother and sister Pauline on holiday at Trecco Bay, Porthcawl, during the war with concertina wire strung along the top of the sand dune behind them.



Remains of a corroded scaffolding tube or similar protruding out of the sand at low tide at Rest Bay.

would have presented an ideal beach for invasion, it is very flat and firm at low tide and was used for motor car racing in the 1920s and 1930s.

The latest storms revealed the use of Admiralty scaffolding by the number of anti-tank devices exposed at the low water mark.

As shown in the photographs, a number of scaffolding tubes or similar have been recovered, as well as lengths of chain. In 1940, anything to hand was used as an anti-tank deterrent and lengths of scrap chain were no exception.

My colleague Michael Stubbs, shown in the photograph playing on the beach at Porthcawl, with the remains of Admiralty scaffolding in the background, was a young boy when war broke out.

After the war, he can remember going on to the beach at Porthcawl with his father, who was a construction engineer, to recover scaffolding tubes using a bulldozer.

He recalls that some of the tubes were embedded in concrete-filled barrels and those that could not be extracted from the sand were cut off at surface level.

Many tonnes of sand have been washed out to sea by the storms, exposing the remains of these cut-off tubes at Rest Bay.

As illustrated in the



RAF concrete quadrant tower at mouth of River Kenfig, Sker Beach. The tower was once on top of the sand dune, but has subsequently slid down.

photographs, the remains are little more than stumps of corroded metal poking out of the sand and surrounded by deep pools of water, as a result of the action of the tides.

Nevertheless, they present a serious hazard to swimmers and surfers alike and are very difficult to recover because they only appear at low tide and even then, they are surrounded by a deep pool of water.

I also have my own memories of seeing Admiralty scaffolding in Swansea Bay and experiencing at first hand (or foot), the type of hazard described above.

While swimming in the bay as a youngster after the war, I unfortunately stubbed my foot on the remains of a cut-off anti-tank railway line embedded in the sand.

Admiralty scaffolding was deployed along hundreds of miles of what were considered vulnerable beaches around the coast of the British Isles during World War II.

Another form of beach defence used at Porthcawl, of which I have personal experience and photographs to back up, was concertina wire.

Beaches were blocked

with entanglements of barbed wire, usually in the form of three coils of concertina wire, fixed in position by metal posts.

This type of defence would also demarcate anti-tank and anti-personnel minefields located on the beaches.

The photograph at the top of the page illustrates the application of concertina wire with the one of me with my grandmother, mother and sister Pauline, taken on the approach to the beach at Trecco Bay, when we were on holiday at Porthcawl during the war.

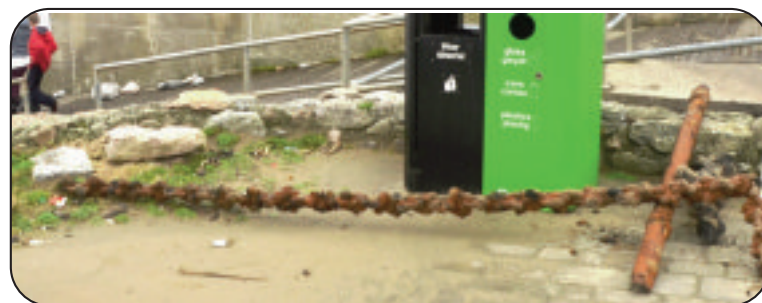
This picture clearly shows the barbed wire strung along the top of the sand dune behind us, prohibiting access to the beach and sea.

The coastline itself was overlooked by pill boxes, with the only one that I know of left in Porthcawl, concealed under the watchtower on the breakwater by modern paving.

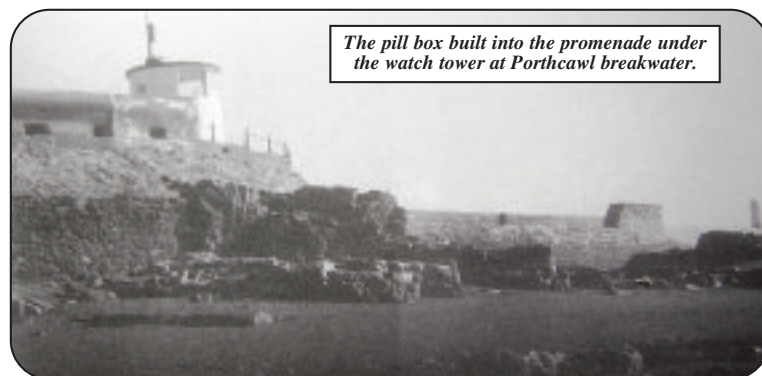
I only have one photograph to show of its existence.

Two other pill boxes (possibly hexagonal type 22) remain in-situ at Pyle, where they guarded the main A48 road and approaches to RAF Stormy Down aerodrome.

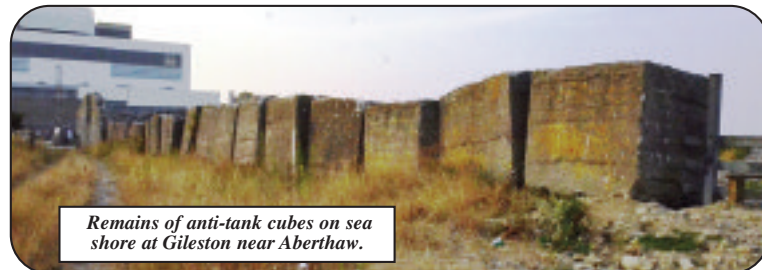
The one pill box left



A scaffold pole and chain recovered at Rest Bay after the recent storms.



The pill box built into the promenade under the watch tower at Porthcawl breakwater.



Remains of anti-tank cubes on sea shore at Gileston near Aberthaw.



ABOVE: A pill box at Pyle guarding the A48 main road.

on Sker Beach probably doubled up with the bombing quadrant tower at the mouth of the Kenfig River, for taking target co-ordination bearings for the RAF practice bombing and gunnery range that was in the bay.

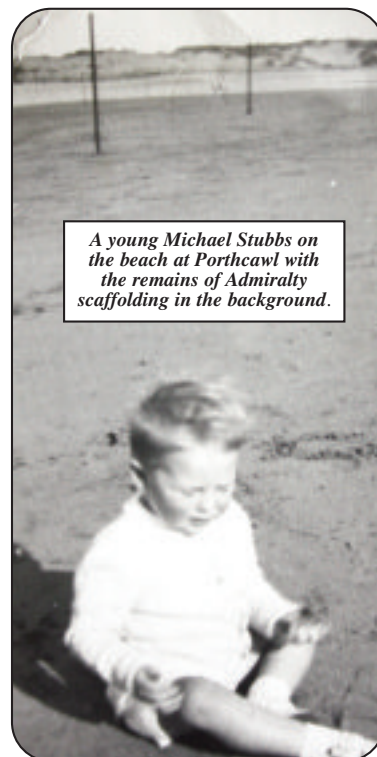
An even more robust barrier to tanks was provided by long lines of anti-tank cubes, 5 feet (1.5 m) to a side, made of reinforced concrete.

Thousands were cast in-situ along vulnerable coasts in rows, sometimes two or three deep.

I have no recollection

of these in Porthcawl, but can remember them in position following the line of the Mumbles railway all the way along the sea front from Mumbles Pier to Swansea itself. These cubes were not removed until the early 1950s.

To end this article on a positive note, a string of anti-tank cubes still remain on the seashore at Gileston near Aberthaw, where they have been put to good use by being moved closer together to form a more modern defence barrier to the encroaching sea.



A young Michael Stubbs on the beach at Porthcawl with the remains of Admiralty scaffolding in the background.

'Progress made on automated gates dangers' – BRIDGEND MP



FOUR years after the tragic death of a young child in an automated gate incident, Madeleine Moon MP has had a meeting with Mike Penning, minister responsible for the Health and Safety Executive, and the founder of Gate Safe, Richard Jackson (pictured above).

The accident in Bridgend in 2010 resulted in the death of Karolina Golabek, aged five, and the MP explained: "The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the achievements of the Gate Safe charity to date. The Rt Hon Mike Penning wholly supported the need to continue to enhance awareness of the importance of adopting the correct safety protocol for automated gates."

Mrs Moon, who is patron of Gate Safe, went on: "The meeting with the Minister was very positive and we appear to have made considerable

progress. Mike Penning had been shocked to learn of the death of two children as a result of problems with electric gates and was eager to ensure that a close working relationship between the HSE and Gate Safe is achieved to raise safety standards.

"I was especially pleased that he instructed officials to ensure the HSE guidance for gate installation was updated quickly on their website."

Richard Jackson, founder of Gate Safe added: "Since October 2010, when Gate Safe handed in a petition to 10 Downing Street to highlight the urgent need to address safety issues relating to automated gates, our campaign has made considerable progress."

"However, we would like to work with the Health and Safety Executive to further improve the understanding of what constitutes a safe automated gate, and what steps must be taken to establish – and maintain – a safe electric gate."

PONTYCLUN RALLIES TO MACMILLAN!

IN their first year the Pontyclun & District Macmillan fundraising support group raised over £6,000 and to celebrate this first anniversary, they are planning to stage a Variety Night.

It will be held at Llanharri Workingmen's Club, on April 4, at 7.30pm, and with the support of the club, entertainment includes Daniel 'Ollie Murs' Cadogan; Stephen Preston composer, arranger and songwriter; Julie 'poems & pints' Croad; ladies choir O2Five; comedian Steve Saint; Minniesingers Male Chorus and the talented pupils of Y Pant School with a musical medley.

Tickets £5 include food, available from The Flower Pot, The Community Shop or Rybec Estate Agents all in Pontyclun, also from The Llanharri Workingmen's Club, Llanharri.

Alternatively, Edwina Clark (07710198617), Pat Clash (07974183987), Julie Croad (07933944165), Jeanie Heaviesides (01443 230249) or Ann

Bennett (01443 225187).

Rebecca Parke, Macmillan fundraising manager, said: "The Pontyclun & District group have gone from strength to strength since forming in early 2013."

They have not only raised over £6,000 to support local people affected by cancer, but are really bringing the community together with their fundraising.

"They've had brilliant support from all over the area and continue to achieve great things in the community."

"Macmillan can only fund services thanks to the generosity of the public."

To find out more how you can help, call 0300 1000 200 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising.

Ploughing furrows at Ogmore by Sea

THE Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society will be running a ploughing coaching course on Saturday, March 29, at Ogmore-by Sea (by permission of Mr Graham David) near the old Sealawns hotel/pub.

There will be car parking space available in the Sealawns car park. Ploughing coaches and judges will be on site from 10.30am to give advice.

Further information from the chairman, Andrew Studley, on 07980 921990.

Rosie heads for book talk

BEST-selling author and adventurer Rosie Thomas will be in Cowbridge on April 4, as guest of the Cowbridge Book Festival, where she will talk about her recently published novel, *The Illusionists*, in the United Free Church at 7.30pm.



Originally from north Wales, Rosie won a scholarship and became a boarder at Howell's School and went on to read English at St Hilda's College, Oxford.

After a few years working for women's magazines, her first novel was published in 1982.

She is now the author of over 20 novels, most recently the award-winning *Iris and Ruby* and *The Kashmir Shawl* (published in 2012 to critical acclaim).

All proceeds from 2014 Festival events will be donated to The Noah's Ark Appeal Children's Hospital of Wales, and Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research.

Contact www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk. Tickets are available from David Barnes (dry cleaners) 35 High Street, Cowbridge; Nickleby's, Pound Field, Llantwit Major; online from TicketlineUK or via the Festival Website; or phone Stella Cheeseman 01446 774827. SRC

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D819.

● **£2,000:** 650292.
● **The rollover, which now stands at £8,000 was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 534343, 370695, 281447, 364636, 783584, 724023, 703946, 833193, 683370, 178684, 602587, 107345,

545813, 792634, 930450, 344151, 102419, 000749, 000122, 000865.

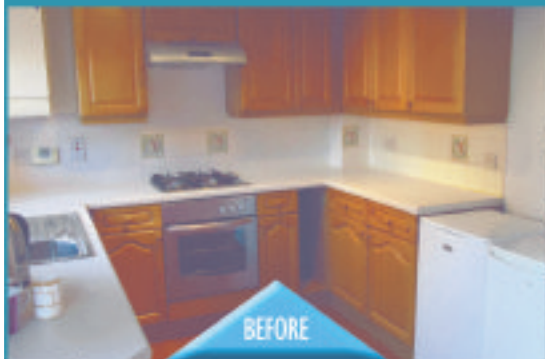
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Out and About with The GEM

Antique fair

TREASURE Trove Fairs are holding an antique and collectors' fair at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on March 30, with up to 40 stands of quality items; it falls on Mothers' Day.

Some dealers will purchase items from customers, and are always ready to give advice. Free parking.

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'TWO CAN'
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Sunday 30th March
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Bute Park talk

RHOOSE and District History Society will present a talk by Rosie James on 'Bute Park Cardiff's hidden history', on Friday March 28 at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhooose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets at the door: £1 per adult* 50p per child (under 16 yrs).

Shakespeare exhibition

TO celebrate the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth, Wales Millennium Centre will be the first venue to display a new touring exhibition from the Victoria and Albert Museum - 'Shooting Shakespeare; 150 Years of Stage Photography'.

On display from March 29, the unique exhibition will include production photographs from Shakespeare's Globe's Globe to Globe festival alongside images from the V&A's Theatre and Performance Collections.

Game and Country Fair

THE South Wales Game and Country Fair takes place on Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6.

Living Heritage are proud to add the venue of Fonmon Castle to their series of shows.

It offers family entertainment in three main arenas, with country sports and pursuits performed by some of the countryside's top names and associations.

The event include and appearance in the Andy Singleton Arena of the Scurry Driving Championship team, an explosive display of scurry driving at its best; and Horseboarding, with a national championship qualifying heat.

Slalom, falconry, gundog and sheepdog displays, fishing, ferret racing, lurchers and

terriers are other varied demonstrations.

Flying displays include Bateleur, Russian Step and African Fish Eagles. Childrens' entertainment includes puppet shows, waterballs, bouncy castles, how to 'handle a gundog', how to 'fish', or 'fly a hawk, or owl' in the falconry village.

In addition, there are trade exhibitors, craft village and cookery demonstrations in the Food Show.

Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6; open 10am-6pm daily at Fonmon Castle, Fonmon, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3ZN; adults £12, over-65s £11; children £4.

Full show details available on www.livingheritagecountryryshows.com; telephone 01283 820548.

WHAT'S ON in brief

Art society

ON Thursday, April 3, Cowbridge Art Society holds its annual Keith James Trophy when members' paintings will be assessed by local artist Lesley Dearn (see www.lesleydearn.co.uk).

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7 - 9pm) and visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

History lecture

COWBRIDGE History Society meets on Friday, April 4 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge, when the Maud Gunter Memorial lecture - Mary Andrews, Postmistress, Llantwit Major in the 1930s - will be given by Chris Young.

This is a change to the published programme. Members should note that the society's AGM will be held on Friday, May 2 at 6.30pm.

Charity boot sale

There is a boot sale at The Rest in Porthcawl every Sunday (weather permitting) starting Sunday April 6 at 7am till 1pm; £6 per car, £12 per van.

Car park for buyers; donation 50p; take-away tea/coffee and snacks available. All proceeds to Healing the Wounds charity.

Tax help for elderly

TAXHELP for Older People (TOP) Surgery will be at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major, CF61 1RBH on April 7 from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary. People can call in for free advice. To access the TOP's helpline, telephone 0845 6013321, or 01308 488066. Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

Shadows club

ON April 8, Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (029 2030 9979) will stage the South Wales Shadows Club's meeting. Play (use PA) or just listen; 8pm; usually £3; all are welcome.

Crime prevention

BRIDGEND Police will be holding a crime reduction event on Wednesday, April 9 at Castle Bingo, Bridgend, opened by the Mayor, Coun Clive James at 9.30am.

The local policing team and a number of agencies will give advice on how to keep safe in your home.

Lions' book and DVD sale

THE Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club will be holding a book sale on the Precinct, Llantwit Major on April 12 from 10am - 4pm.

The club welcomes donations of new books to add to their stock and DVDs which must be in good condition.

Contact the Lions at www.lmandclions.org.uk or email info@lmandclions.org.uk (telephone 0845 833 6763).

Walk the Vale for charity

THE Ed Evans Foundation, which raises money for The Brain Tumour Charity in Wales will Walk the Vale on Easter Monday (April 21).

There will be a long walk and short walk, starting from The Plough and Harrow, Monkknash CF71 7QQ. Registration for both walks from 9am; £5 entry fee.

Form and information available from: www.edevansfoundation.co.uk; Sue Evans Tel: 01656 890217.

Charity gala

A MICHAEL (Clive) Down Gala Charity Evening (Er budd Ambiwllans Awyr Cymru - In aid of Wales Air Ambulance) will be held with Kenfig Hill & District Male Voice Choir and special guests Omore Valley Silver Band, Stephen Ulberini (tenor) and Stefanie Harvey-Powell (soprano) at Bethlehem Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend on Saturday, April 12 at 7pm.

CRESTA COACHES

Day Trips & Tours Spring & Summer 2014

Date	Day	Destination	Adult Fare	OAP Child
29/3/2014	Saturday	Cotswolds Villages - Day Trip	£11.95	£10.95
12/4/2014	Saturday	Weston Super Mare	£12.00	£11.00
19/4/2014	Saturday	Windsor & Legoland (Coach Only)	£14.00	£13.00
22/4/2014	Tuesday	Oakwood Park or Folly Farm (Coach Only)	£9.50	£9.00
26/4/2014	Saturday	West Midlands Safari (Coach Only)	£14.50	£13.50
06/5/2014	Tuesday	Abergavenny Market	£9.95	£9.50
10/5/2014	Saturday	Malvern Spring Gardening Show (Coach Only)	£11.50	£10.50
17/5/2014	Saturday	London Flyer, Sights or London Show (Coach Only)	£15.50	£15.00
24/5/2014	Saturday	Drayton Manor (Coach Only)	£14.00	£13.00
26/5/2014	Monday	Oakwood Park or Folly Farm (Coach Only)	£9.50	£9.00
07/6/2014	Saturday	Stratford Upon Avon	£12.95	£11.95
13/6/2014	Friday	Cotswolds, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£171.50	£171.50
14/6/2014	Saturday	Oxford City Centre	£14.00	£13.50
21/6/2014	Saturday	Ross on Wye 'Labels' & Gloucester Quays	£11.50	£10.50
28/6/2014	Saturday	Cotswolds Villages - Day Trip	£11.95	£10.95
05/7/2014	Saturday	Street Village & Weston Super Mare	£12.50	£11.50
12/7/2014	Saturday	Worcester	£13.75	£13.00
18/7/2014	Friday	Cheshire, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£185.00	£185.00
19/7/2014	Saturday	Haverfordwest & St Davids City	£14.00	£13.50
23/7/2014	Wednesday	Royal Welsh Show, Coach Only	£12.00	£11.50
25/7/2014	Friday	Lincoln, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£159.50	£159.50
11/8/2014	Monday	Norwich & Sandringham, 5 Day Holiday, 4*	£264.00	£264.00
01/9/2014	Monday	Cork Ireland, 5 Day Holiday, 4* Hotel	£355.00	£355.00
3/10/2014	Friday	Cotswolds, 4 Day Short Break Weekend	£171.50	£171.50

Short Break Holidays Summer 2014

Friday 13th June & 17th October 2014.
Cotswolds, 4 days Friday to Monday.
Adults £171.50.

Friday 18th July 2014. **Cheshire**, 4 days Friday to Monday.
Adults £185.

Friday 27th July 2014. **Lincoln**, 4 days Friday to Monday.
Adults £159.50.

Monday 11th August 2014. **Norwich** 5 days Monday to Friday.
Adults £264.

Monday 1st September 2014. **Cork, Ireland**, 5 days Monday to Friday.
Adults £355.

Call our reservations line for further information on 01656 660366

Additional Summer, Autumn & Winter dates will be added to our full 2014 programme. Minimum passenger numbers are required, therefore early reservation is essential. Local pickups throughout South Wales.

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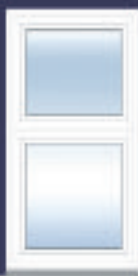
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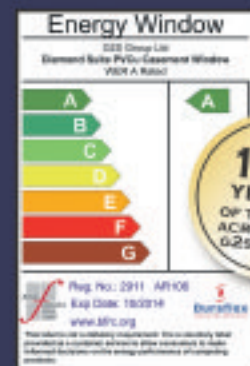
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RHOOSE BOWLING CLUB

'Bowls - a sport for all ages'



Discover a new sport at the Rhoose Bowling Club's 'open day' on April 5!



RHOOSE Bowling Club is holding an 'open day' on Saturday, April 5, with an invitation to people of all ages to find out about the sport and learn from qualified coaches.

Brian Shears, who has

been the chairman for two years, emphasised that the event was an ideal opportunity for local people to find out more about the club situated on Celtic Way.

"Rhoose Bowling Club is a go-ahead club eager to attract members from all age groups.

"We already have links to the local primary school, who are

encouraged to enjoy bowling at the club, and strong links to the community also.

"We also provide training facilities for the Welsh national team, who are currently preparing for the Commonwealth Games being held in Glasgow later this year."

The day is free - all people have to do is bring along suitable footwear.

"We hope to welcome all ages, and are particularly keen to see ladies and teenagers coming along.

"The national team and county team tend to be people in their 30s and we want to encourage a new generation."

The club is already putting in time with youngsters at Rhoose

Primary School.

Brian explained: "They come for six PE lessons during the summer. When they come for the final session, we hold a competition with parents and present prizes.

"Unlike other areas, such as Barry and Llantwit Major, we don't have a secondary school close by - that's why we're keen to encourage local teenagers to come along to the open day.

"Last year, we welcomed the Girl Guides and the Scouts and if local youth groups would like to come along, they are very welcome.

"We supply all the equipment and free coaching. All people have to do is bring along a pair of flat shoes."

Brian and the club



have even got advice from the very top in how to promote the club.

John Price, the world

champion, has been giving us some ideas. He is the promotions man for the World Bowls Federation."

So what can people expect on Saturday, April 5?

"There will be a meet and greet, and time for a coffee and chat.

"All the equipment will be ready and laid out - we have five coaches at the club - and it will be a case of going out and enjoying playing."

So make a date at this friendly, sociable local bowling club at 2pm on April 5!

ABOVE:
Visit Rhoose Bowling Club on April 5 and you'll get a chance to play a game on the green.

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Welsh stars get off their bikes to judge some cakes and scones!

... ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE FOR SPORT RELIEF

WORLD champion cyclist Becky James and London 2012 Paralympic gold medallist Aled Davies, put the brakes on their gruelling training regimes and stepped into the kitchen to judge SWALEC's Sport Relief baking competition.

The Welsh stars joined hundreds of SWALEC employees at their Cardiff offices to help raise money for Sport Relief. Becky and Aled had the enviable task of judging the quality of cakes, scones and other sweet treats made by staff to raise money for the charity.

SWALEC employees also had the chance to be champs for the day, paying a donation to Sport Relief to wear Aled's prized Paralympic gold medal from London

2012.

Aled said: "I'm training hard for Glasgow 2014, but I couldn't resist having one day off to play Paul Hollywood to Becky's Mary Berry for the day. SWALEC is a big supporter of both of us and so it's been great to come along here today to help support staff raising money for a fantastic cause."

Wendy Barbour, SWALEC's Director of Sponsorship and Commonwealth Games, said the company and staff were proud to be an official partner of Sport Relief and playing a part in raising millions for charity.

She said: "There's been a tremendous amount of fundraising activity across all SSE offices, from 24-hour rowing competitions to sporting challenges. The SSE Sport Relief baking competition is slightly less energetic but no less



competitive, and it's fantastic to have Aled and Becky here to judge the winner.

The money raised by Sport Relief goes to help vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the UK and across the world, giving them a helping hand to turn their lives around.

Looking back on a full life with no regrets

I WAS born in London on April 5, 1914, just before the First World War started.

My first childhood memory was when aged three and a half years, I saw an airship in the sky, searchlights flashing away, and the sound of heavy gunfire taking place (it was wartime).

Also at the same age my mother paid a halfpenny a week for me to attend school.

From the beginning, the teacher stood in front with a picture and we had to say - "C-A-T, cat; D-O-G, dog; S-U-N, sun," etc.

By the age of five years I could read a child's comic.

Still in London during the Second World War I was in the Fire Service throughout the Blitz, being bombed day and night.

Two things have stayed in my memory: the afternoon when the London docks were bombed. The whole of the sky was lit up and it was days before it was put out.

The other was a telegram asking me to go to East Driffield because my brother (an airgunner on the German raids) was involved in a fatal accident.

I was taken to the mortuary and I could not believe my eyes. From the floor to the ceiling, it was full of shelves, each one holding an airman on it, a tragic loss of all those young lives.

I have led a very full life being involved in many things and I have no regrets.

Mrs 'Trixie' Heveron, Rhoose.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Fair funding the way forward'

LAST week, the Vale Conservative group tabled a motion in full council opposing a merger with Cardiff, as recommended by a recent Welsh Government-commissioned report.

We didn't do this to protect our own jobs, nor was it done because we oppose attempts to streamline local government in Wales. We did it because we firmly believe that a return to the bad

old days of 'South Glamorgan' would be a disaster for the Vale.

The cost of politics needs to be reduced and we have to find ways, as a council to save money – and to ensure that we spend every penny of your money wisely. But submerging the Vale into a Greater Cardiff region will put our towns and villages at a disadvantage, heightening competition for limited funding, and lead to the decimation of our green areas as we take on a greater share of housing to meet Cardiff's much greater need.

I was angry that residents were hit by the council with a huge council tax rise, but the way to prevent that from happening again is to campaign for fair funding from the Welsh Labour Government – not to merge our council with our much larger neighbours.

Coun John Thomas,
Leader, Vale of Glamorgan Conservative Group.

Merger referendum

I WAS pleased to read that Alun Cairns, in his column last week, picked up my suggestion that a referendum should be held before any merger of the Vale with Cardiff could take place. What views do our Assembly Members have on this exercise of democracy?

Gordon Kemp (former Conservative Leader of the Vale Council, Walterston.

council tax; – has spent over £60 million on Cardiff Airport; over £400,000 on a shuttle bus service from Cardiff to the airport which is hardly being used; over £10,000 on televisions for his Assembly. Was this in his party manifesto before the election?

He believes in democracy, yet refused to give the Welsh people a referendum on council tax rises.

Can you just imagine this lot getting tax raising and borrowing powers?
D J Radford,
Barry.

IT has now been revealed that this Labour-led Welsh Government are wasting £180,000 of our hard earned taxes on renting a hospitality box at the Millennium Stadium.

Just when is the Assembly First Minister going to be brought to task about the prolific spending of our money?

He refused to use money diverted from the UK Government to the Welsh Government to alleviate the rise in

HATS GALORE – and a cheque for flood victims

JAN LEWIS entertained the Vale NFU Ladies' meeting in Penlllyn Village Hall this month by bringing hand crafted hats, fascinations and jewellery; fun was had by all and everyone had a good try on!

The jewellery matching the hats seemed to be a great success. It was a splendid evening and Helena Davies gave the vote of thanks.

Chairperson Ann Rees said that £400 had been sent from the Vale NFU Ladies in support of the Somerset farmers' flood appeal. This was sent via David Harris of Bridgend NFU, in conjunction with the proceeds raised at the entertainment at Barry Memorial Hall.

The next meeting will be held on April 22 at 7.30pm; new members are welcome. JS

Mayor's coffee
THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is hosting a charity coffee morning in aid of Valeplus on April 1, from 10.30am to 12 noon in the Civic Office. All are welcome.



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Starred Up – a taut and brutal piece of work...

Of all the great British television institutions to provide cinema with a new wave of bright young talent, E4's *Skins* is perhaps the most unlikely; but one look at its graduating class might make you change your mind.

Nicholas Hoult has found himself featuring in the *X-Men* franchise, Dev Patel shone in *Slumdog Millionaire* and is now in Aaron Sorkin's *The Newsroom*, Kaya Scodelario is tipped for big things, and Hannah Murray is in TV's *Game Of Thrones*.

The next alumni aiming to break out is Jack O'Connell, who stars in gritty British drama *Starred Up*; he plays Eric, a troubled and violent teenager who is transferred from a youth offender institute (where he has been classed as 'starred up', i.e. a violent youth) to a prison where his father Neville (Ben Mendelsohn) is also incarcerated.

With a volunteer, Oliver (Rupert Friend), attempting to rationalise his behaviour and work out why he leans so much towards violence, will Eric's ways change?...

While there have been many films that have attempted to show the

brutal reality of life in prison, no film since Alan Clarke's *Scum* has truly captured the constricting nature of life behind bars, the tension and fear of every moment vividly brought to life.

Time will tell whether *Starred Up* can manage to usurp the 'daddy' of the genre, but on first impressions it certainly puts up a good fight, the film an incredibly taut and brutal piece of work that leaves a lasting impression on you.

Having previously helmed the low-key Scottish drama *Hallam Foe*, David Mackenzie seems an unlikely director for a film that deals in a world of violence and anger, yet his direction is pitch-perfect here.

With hand-held cameras and close-ups granting us an intimate look into prison life, Mackenzie is an unflinching observer, the danger of the world always on the periphery, even in the most sedate of moments.

Mackenzie constantly makes the audience aware of how removed these prisoners are from the real world, either through their behaviour or the constant soundtrack of doors being locked shut; it makes for an immersive experience, one that can feel claustrophobic at times, but that grants the film a mood and atmosphere that enriches

the viewing experience.

In the lead role Jack O'Connell is an absolute revelation as Eric; his is a performance of anger and physicality, yet while the actor nails this with precision, it's the more human moments that sing out, the young boy beneath the bluster only ever occasionally coming to the surface.

That isn't to say that the edges are ever really softened – there are no moments of emotional vulnerability, the mask of bravado always in place, but it is O'Connell's ability to shine a light, no matter how small, on these moments that make this a performance to watch.

Ben Mendelsohn makes a perfect foil as his father, the Australian actor giving his best Cockney accent and delivering a low-key, but hugely intense performance, the father/son dynamic the driving force behind the film, and Mendelsohn, who is building up a solid body of work, more than delivers the goods.



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

Rupert Friend is equally as strong, the slow peeling away of his character's psyche being brought dramatically to life by the actor, whose slight personality gives way to a man who has more in common with the prisoners he volunteers with than he lets on.

Jonathan Asser offers a script that is punchy and engaging, his characters vivid and the situations all too real. The film can't quite escape the stereotypes

you find in this genre – the new boy on the block, the wizened heads helping him, the kingpin who runs the prison, guards who are prepared to turn a blind eye when necessary – but Asser gives them their own sense of purpose and makes the characters feel richer and less predictable, and if the pay-off doesn't quite match the build up, the quality of what has gone before sweetens the pill somewhat; what is undeniable is that by *Starred Up*'s credits you'll feel both exhausted and exhilarated by a bold, brutal work.

VERDICT: A stark and bleak film, *Starred Up* drips with superb performances, strong direction and a tight script. Jack O'Connell's lead turn marks him as a talent to watch, but as well as this star-making performance, this is one film that will linger with you after watching.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Shifty* (2008), *Scum* (1979).

Nell's Point benefits from coffee morning



The Vale of Glamorgan Mayor has hosted a coffee morning in aid of the National Coastwatch Institution at Nell's Point, which raised £540.

Pictured are the Mayor's consort, Mrs Jayne Norman; the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, and Alan Morgan from Coastwatch.

WHAT'S ON / in brief Spring concert

CERDDORFA Dinas Powys Orchestra's spring concert takes place on Sunday, March 30 (7.30pm) in the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys CF64 4AF.

The programme will include Beethoven Overture 'Coriolan'; Beethoven Piano Concerto No 3 (soloist Tomas Klement from the Czech Republic), and Schubert Symphony No 3. Tickets available at the door or from Dinas Powys Post Office, 3 Station Road, Dinas Powys and Penarth Book Shop, Windsor Road, Penarth. Cost: £6 (£3 age 12 and under). Tel: 029 20706288; www.cdpo.org.uk.

Valeways walks

THIS Saturday (March 29) at 2pm, 'Lan a Lawr – i'r Downs' starting at Cowbridge Town Hall, maes parcio/car park.

On Sunday, March 30, 'Start of Spring', at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

Prize draw winner read about it in The GEM!



PICTURED (left to right): Paula Morris (Cardiff Airport), Jodie Wellington, Helen Tustin (Regal Travel), Caroline Price (Red Sea Holidays) and Jeanette Price (winner).

THE Cardiff Airport Holiday Market, with Regal Travel, made dreams come true for one Llantwit Major resident, who won an all-inclusive five star trip to Egypt, after reading about the event in The GEM.

Last month's Holiday Market saw more than 800 people visit Cardiff Airport to find out about all the destinations that can be reached from there, and take advantage of the chance to enter the free prize draw to win a trip to Siva Sharm Resort and Spa with Red Sea Holidays.

Jeanette Price was thrilled when she received the call from Regal Travel to say she was the winner. She said: "I was so pleased and surprised to win the competition. I've been to Sharm El Sheikh once before and it was very beautiful so I can't wait to go back. I'm taking my husband with me – I don't think he'd be very happy if I didn't!"

"I thoroughly enjoyed the Holiday Market, which I'd read about in The GEM. It was fantastic to be able to speak to representatives from each of the tour operators in person and we took plenty of brochures away with us."

"I go on holiday once or twice a year and always fly from Cardiff

because it's so convenient."

Helen Tustin, general manager at Regal Travel, said: "After two successful years of Holiday Markets in Bridgend, we thought it was time to share our expertise with a wider audience, this time with the support of Cardiff Airport, a wide variety of operators and airlines."

"It was great to get the prize from Red Sea Holidays which added to the excitement on the day and we hope Mrs Price has a wonderful holiday with her husband."

The Chief Executive of Cardiff Airport, Jon Horne, said: "February proved to be the perfect time to hold our first Holiday Market; it was a fantastic opportunity to show travellers just how many wonderful places they can go from Cardiff."

"We were very pleased to work with Regal Travel and provide the south Wales community with plenty of inspiration for their next getaway."

"It was great to hear Mrs Price is a regular traveller through Cardiff because she, like so many fellow Welsh people, finds it so convenient to fly from her local airport. We're delighted she'll be flying from Cardiff for her prize with Red Sea Holidays and look forward to welcoming her and her husband in November."

Weatherman Derek walks through Wales

VALE-based weatherman Derek Brockway, star of the popular Weatherman Walking TV series, is releasing a new book called *Great Welsh Walks* this week.

The weatherman and co-author Martin Aaron present 18 of their favourite walks from all over Wales, from the steep hills and mountains of Snowdonia to the coastal paths of Pembrokeshire and Anglesey; from busy Cardiff Bay to zig-zagging along the Offa's Dyke Path.

Each walk comes with an introduction by Derek, an OS-based map, grid references, detailed directions and pictures of significant landmarks.

"Being a BBC weatherman is my dream job," reveals Derek.

"Although work has taken me around the UK and abroad, Wales will always be home and, in my opinion, there's no better place to live."



"We're so lucky to have so much variety packed into one small country – Wales is made for walking, and whatever the weather, there's always something new to be discovered."

"Although the 18 walks in this book only scratches the surface, it gives a good taste of what our country has to offer."

Derek Brockway is signing copies in *The Delicatessen, Pontyclun* this Saturday, March 29 between 10.30am and 12pm; and *Pyle Garden Centre*, 2pm to 3.30pm.

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TOOLBOX SURPRISE FOR COLLEGE APPRENTICES!



ABOVE: The apprentices were delighted to receive a free set of tools from their day release trainer.

OVER 130 apprentice electricians with leading national training provider JTL were surprised last week to be presented with a gift during their weekly day release attendance at Cardiff and Vale College.

They each received a free set of tools valued at more than £150, selected by the company to help young electricians,

through a partnership with Monument Tools.

They were handed out by JTL's Martin Laye, and training officers Phil Rees and Simeon Thomas, helped by the head of department at Cardiff and Vale College, Gary Collins and tutor Jon Bowen.

The apprentices work with their employer for four days a week and spend a day a week at Cardiff and Vale College to build on their practical knowledge and to be taught theory.

Why mum Lisa is running marathon for the CF charity

LISA CLOSE from Broadlands, Bridgend, is running the London Marathon on Sunday, April 13, to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis research.

She explained: "My running days started when I was six years old, dressed in a market-brought shell suit and pump up trainers.

"Just to prove to my dad I could, I ran my first fun run at a local village. I followed my mum and older sister around the course, and then blew them out on the home stretch – which is how I've run ever since.

"I've always run on and off over the years. I've never run any great distances and I've never run for any charities. When I did the Cardiff Half Marathon last year, I was inspired by all those running for a cause, so I started questioning why I wasn't.

"I've always wanted to run the London Marathon and to find a charity was easy – Cystic Fibrosis (CF).

"When I was expecting my first baby, at the 20-week scan they thought he might have CF, a genetic condition in



Lisa Close with Neil Thomas of Thomas Kitchens & Bathrooms, Bridgend, her main sponsors for the run.

which the lungs and digestive system become clogged with thick mucus.

"There is no cure, and those with CF have a lower than average life expectancy. We were devastated and would not be able to find out if he had the condition until he was six weeks old.

"We had so much support through that time. We were assigned a counsellor and I had question after question. The charity was fantastic and had so much patience.

"Ethan was born and six weeks later he was tested and it was confirmed he did not have CF, although, like his dad Matthew, he does carry the gene. We were lucky that in order for the gene to mutate, I also needed to be a carrier – they hadn't been able to

find that gene in me. "Running 26 miles will physically be the hardest thing I have ever done, but knowing that I am giving back and helping those who weren't as lucky as Ethan will keep me putting one foot in front of the other.

"All charities are worthwhile. Some have more meaning to you than others. Please support me on my journey; we never know when we may need the help of others."

Lisa is holding a charity night to help raise money for Cystic Fibrosis at Tondur Cricket Club on Friday, April 4. Tickets are still available, contact Matt on 07701 080013. Alternatively, if you would like to make a donation, contact www.virginmoneygiving.com/LisaClose1.

MP welcomes welfare cap

VALE Conservative MP, Alun Cairns, this week welcomed news that 43 households in the Vale have had their benefits capped, as part of a UK Government clampdown on excessive benefits.

He said: "Obviously, capping people's benefits is always going to be an emotive subject, but it doesn't make sense when people can claim more on benefits than the average working family.

"It is not fair to claimants or to the taxpayer to be trapped on benefits. Reform was needed and the benefit cap is a key plank of the changes that were needed.

"Capping welfare is part of the Conservatives' long-term economic plan to build an economy that delivers for people who work hard and play by the rules.

"The benefit cap is ending the something for nothing culture, which means a stronger community where everyone contributes," he added.

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The Aberthin tractor boys plough the fields and demonstrate how to keep a straight line

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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www.ffotoimage.co.uk



THERE'S a renewed interest in traditional rural pursuits such as ploughing and hedging, with regular competitions being held.

Last weekend, the Tractor Boys of Aberthin held a training day in Llanharan, so that anyone thinking of entering a competition could refine their technique!



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Phoenix too strong for Blaenau Gwent



ABOVE LEFT: Lowri Reeves forces her way over for a score, and ABOVE RIGHT: Leanne Burnell crosses the line.
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JULIE HANCOCK

BLAENAU GWENT ladies, with the benefit of the breeze at their backs, had the better of the early territorial exchanges against Pencoed Phoenix, with home full back Lauren Aitken and flanker Kathryn Stonehouse both doing well to retrieve dangerous Blaenau Gwent raids in the Phoenix 22.

It was Phoenix who opened the scoring however, scrum half Sam Trickey breaking down the blindside to feed right wing Leanne Burnell with a well-timed pass, Burnell's pace doing the rest from 50 metres out.

Good driving play from home prop Michele Halse following a lineout took the home side into the Blaenau half and retaining possession, Phoenix asked further questions of the visitors' defence before skipper Lowri Reeves took a quick tap penalty some 15 metres out and a forceful determined run took her over wide out.

Phoenix second row Hannah Brunskill then stole a visitors' throw to return play to the Blaenau half and good combined play from Stonehouse (arguably enjoying her best match for Phoenix), Trickey and Mel McKardle took them into the visitors' 22, and with Reeves keeping the attack going, Trickey spotted the gap opening to score in the corner.

Aitken then pulled off a try-saving tackle to deny the visitors, but they kept possession to move the ball for their left wing to score in the corner on the stroke of halftime.

Phoenix opened the second half with a strong driving scrummage, and capitalising on the increasingly dominant set piece, No8 Amy Stevens drove for the line only to be held just short.

Replacement prop forward Becca Pope then drove over, but was deemed held up by the match official. Trickey then broke from another dominant Phoenix scrum and centre McKardle crossed wide out for her first try in Phoenix colours.

Co-centre Katie Murphy then set off on a 40-metre run which almost took her over under the

posts, before quick ruck ball saw Stevens, with a show-and-go angled run, score halfway out.

Phoenix then introduced a number of replacements, Gemma Stevens at No6 making an immediate impact with a determined 30-metre run, with fellow replacement Deborah Evans ripping out possession to put Phoenix back on the offensive.

Fresh legs were now making an impact for the Phoenix and left wing replacement Laura Orgill, despite her slight frame, shrugged off a number of defenders to score in the corner; Trickey converted for a final scoreline of 32-5.

Lowri Reeves and Sam Trickey were chosen best Phoenix forward and back respectively by the opposition.

Young Phoenix Girls made it a double delight for Phoenix on the day with a hard earned 0-10 win in the Rhondda Valley against Wattstown girls, skipper Amy Morgan and Kayleigh Powell getting the Phoenix tries (see match report on page 8).

TR



Sam Trickey leads the charge for the Phoenix, while BELOW: Aimee Stevens goes to ground to score a well-worked try.



Fast and furious youth rugby!



The Keith Grist Memorial Cup being presented by Richard Owen of Old Castle Primary School.

WORDS AND
PHOTOS BY
KEITH E.
MORGAN

RIGHT:
The Litchard
Primary School
under-11s rugby
team with their
coach A. Richards



RIGHT:
The Ysgol Gynradd
Cymraeg Bro Ogwr
under-11s rugby
team with their
coach R. Cahill.



RECENTLY, 15 school rugby teams lined up and faced each other in the Keith Grist Memorial Cup knock-out schools under-11s rugby tournament at Porthcawl RFC.

The event was organised by Simon Elias, secretary of Bridgend Schools Rugby Union (under-11s).

The match referee was Richard Owen of Oldcastle Primary School, who ensured that a tight rein was kept on the enthusiastic youngsters, both boys and girls.

The eventual finalists in this competition were Litchard Primary School and Ysgol Gynradd Cymraeg Bro Ogwr, who in a grinding, very closely contested match, ended up with both sides scoring two tries apiece.

As a tie, it was agreed that both sides would share the honour of winning the Keith Grist Memorial Cup, but another five minutes each way would have to be played to decide which team went through to the Welsh Schools' under-11s rugby finals.

After the first five minutes of extra time neither side had scored; however, in the next five minute half, after pressurising the Bro Ogwr line for some time, Litchard eventually broke through and went over to score a try and gain the honour of playing in the Welsh finals.



ABOVE: Melina McKardle keeps a close eye on the opposition.

Pencoed youth reach plate semi-final!

THIS quarter final of the District Plate Competition went down to the wire, Pencoed snatching a 20-17 victory over Bryncethin in the closing minutes.

Pencoed scored in the opening minute, centre Shane Izatt crossing following a powerful run. Izatt then went on to get a second try before Bryncethin replied with two penalty goals for Pencoed to lead 6-10.

Pencoed wing Jamie Dyer then squeezed over in the corner to extend his side's lead to 6-15

before Bryncethin reduced the Pencoed lead with two further penalty goals, before getting a try in the last quarter to lead 17-15 for the first time in the match.

Pencoed then introduced two players from their under-16s squad, Rhys Butler at full back and Dan Watkins at second row.

Morgan Jones crossed for the all-important try in the final minutes to put Pencoed through to the semi-final, the win all the more meritorious with four members of the squad in Hong Kong!

TR

PORTHCAWL RFC RUGBY ROUND-UP

Banner's late double grabs points for 14-man Seaweeds!

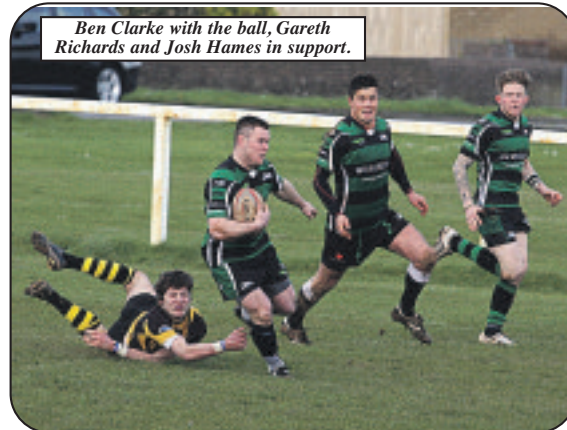


Ollie Banner, whose late tries earned Porthcawl the victory.

PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS



ABOVE: Lloyd Long with the ball, with Joey Jones in support.



Ben Clarke with the ball, Gareth Richards and Josh Hames in support.

PORTHCAWL RFC took sweet revenge for their early season loss at Ogmores Vale with a late grandstand finish on Saturday, taking the spoils 19-15.

With both sides after much-needed league points, it was Ogmores that struck first with a well-deserved try after stretching the home defence. This remained the only score of a lacklustre first half with both sides' efforts coming to grief for lack of important touches at key moments.

A crucial moment in the match saw Porthcawl lose two players in a skirmish following a head-high tackle by the visitors and taking the law into their own hands saw skipper Gareth Davies yellow carded and fellow flanker Sion Dunkley shown red, much to the home crowd's displeasure, while the tackle offence went unpunished.

With just 13 men on the field the Seaweeds were glad of the half-time whistle.

At the start of the second half, Ogmores quickly stretched their lead with a second unconverted try for a useful 10-point lead before home scrum half Joey Jones made it all very interesting again with a smart try converted by fly-half Ollie Banner, to

reward some better home play by the Porthcawl pack, who provided the necessary platform at close range.

Once again, Ogmores Vale took advantage of poor home tackling to secure their third unconverted try as the match went into the last quarter and whatever the home side tried, they couldn't break down a stubborn visitors' defence.

With skipper Davies restored to the side, but still down to 14 men, and as if sensing the need to take a more direct route, Porthcawl started to ask bigger questions of Ogmores' tiring side.

The introduction of Ben Clark brought a new edge to Porthcawl's attack, with his quick feet leaving defenders grasping at thin air at times and all of a sudden it was a re-enthused Seaweeds side.

First of all Ollie Banner skipped over for a crucial home try, unconverted, to bring it back to 12-15 with barely five minutes remaining and this lifted Porthcawl, who attacked with purpose.

As the match slipped into injury time, cometh the hour, cometh the man, as Banner, again, mesmerised the stretched Ogmores defence with a brilliant show and step, to canter through for a



Steve Phillips with the ball.

superb try. Mikey Fraser's neat conversion was followed by the final whistle as the home side celebrated a mighty comeback and a deserved win.

Players worthy of mention include Nick Nutman and Richard Hnyda, whose direct running hit big holes and Steve Phillips, who did well attacking from fullback, as well as showing soundness at the back.

This first win in many weeks will help to instil confidence for the away trip to Penygraig on Saturday.

PORTHCAWL RFC UNDER-7S 13, CCRIC 10

The Porthcawl under-7s entertained CCRIC, who brought down two strong teams pushing us all the way right to the end.

Their aggressive defence put us on the back foot, something we normally do to the other teams, but we needed to adapt. The only way we were going to win was by the whole team pulling together, which they certainly did - and it was a joy to see.

The coaches have been working hard over last couple of weeks encouraging the team to move forward together in both attack and defence, and encourage those who naturally drift back in the game to keep moving forward and get more ball time.

This unity not only enables them to get more involved in the game but it allows each of the players' confidence to grow, especially closer to the try line in attack and also to make that important last tag which we saw a number of times.

Thanks go to the coaches for their great efforts and we were rewarded again by the team in their display.

Naming the club man award is really challenging and it was no easier with at least five players deserving it. The award is to recognise the players' listening and learning during both training and during the game.

There were a number of strong performances which deserve a mention in Matthew and Toby, who are always put the team first and encouraging others, while also putting in a superb performance in both attack and defence; but the club man award went to Brody who not so long ago was a player who naturally drifted out of the line and out of the game.

Over last month he has really taken on board what the coaches have been saying which saw him

being top tagger last week and this week he picked up on the focus on running skills which resulted in him scoring three tries - well done and keep it up.

The players pulled together and showed off their skills which was very pleasing. On the team theme it would be good for all parents to get together socially, so this Saturday, if you can make it, the plan is to watch the youth, who are playing at home and if they win, they win the league.

There is also a band playing after the game from 6pm-8pm, so not too late for the kids.

Tries: Brody (3), Dewi (3), Lewis (2), Jonah, Samuel (2), Beau and Ryan; top taggers were Dewi and Ryan - well done both of you.

PF

PORTHCAWL RFC UNDER-8S

Porthcawl 7, CRICC 3; Porthcawl 10, Gilfach Goch 5.

Playing at home for the first time in ages with a double header was always going to be a good day for rugby.

Our first game against CRICC saw some very open play in the first half with not much between the sides. The second half however saw us dominate the game much better in attack and defence. Organisation seemed to be the key element and the players delivered what they said they would at halftime with confidence, winning 7-3.

Our second game with Gilfach Goch saw us get right on top of the game after conceding to early tries without panicking into chasing the game. The side reshuffled at halftime to plug some holes in defence. This game was never really in doubt even though our visitors came back to within a point, only to see us run in four tries without reply giving us a 9-5 victory.

The team carried on from last week with a great desire to do the right thing. The tagging was good, the passing is getting better and the support given to the ball carrier was exceptional. We had tries of genuine quality and had eight different players scoring tries, with all players taking at least one tag but all players offering themselves in support. Great stuff!

RH

The under-15s also had a great win on the road, beating Swansea Uplands 15-5.

Also, the youth play Nantymoel this Saturday, March 29; this is their last home league match of the season and if they win that game they win the league. There is also post-match live music from 6pm-8pm.

JP

PENCOED PUSH LEADERS YSTALFERA ALL THE WAY

PENCOED were caught cold in the opening minute, league leaders Ystalyfera's inside centre Ashley Carer straightening onto a short pass to cross untouched at the posts, outside half Gareth Jones converting.

Pencoed then signalled their intentions, moving the ball wide with two miss passes to put Gareth Dyer in space, the left wing making good ground into the Ystalyfera 22 before being brought down by their secondary cover.

Pencoed centre Lloyd Ryland then put in a big hit on his opposite number to set up a position in the visitors' 22 where home scrum half Adam Williams, taking over kicking duties in the absence of his injured skipper Marc Davies, slotted over the resultant penalty.

Pencoed took the lead with the try of the match; Tom Cross, playing at 10, picked the ball off the floor in his own 22 and moved it to centres Ryland and Ken Morris showing good hands to feed Scott Narbeth on the right wing; Narbeth handed off a tackler before popping a well-timed pass to looping full back Glen Hiscocks, who raced away from 50 metres to score a superb try.

James then restored the visitors'

lead with a penalty goal and Ystalyfera returned to the attack in the home 22, where vital last ditch tackles from Cross and Josh Harris kept the visitors out.

A sustained period of pressure followed from the champions elect who threw everything at the Pencoed line prior to the interval, but a tenacious home defence could not be breached, the visitors' player/coach James recognising this and taking a simple three points on offer metres out, and a halftime lead of 8-13.

With second half wind advantage to come Pencoed must have quietly fancied their chances, however a predictable visitors game plan transpired, keeping the ball up front to slow the match tempo and deny the dangerous Pencoed backs possession.

A huge hit from home hooker Ieuan Watkins brought gasps from both the opposition player, and a crowd enthralled by the intensity of the match. Morris and Narbeth combined down the right and only scrambled defence from the visitors denied a home score.

Then came a key moment in the match, the home side picking up a yellow card deep in their own 22. The visitors' pack capitalised on their advantage immediately, where their driving play saw No8 Stephen Jones get the touchdown.

Strong runs from Gareth

Prentice and Watkins typified the home resolve, and it was the league leaders' turn to come under pressure. The home pack, despite taking a number of tight heads, were beginning to have problems at the lineout, consequently finding it difficult to develop continuity in the visitors' half.

Unfortunately for Pencoed the visitors took full advantage of the next visit to the home 22, their driving play providing the platform for scrum half Thomas Barry to go over.

In contrast to the visitors, Pencoed were moving their limited ball at every opportunity, and a sweeping attack from their own 22 involving Morris and Dyer in the dying moments deserved a consolation score - alas it was not to be, the final score 23-8.

The tangible relief at the final whistle of the now Division 3 south west champions was very apparent as the home side, despite the final scoreline, had taken Ystalyfera all the way, and could not have given anymore.

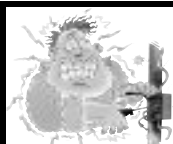
Based on this performance Pencoed are more than capable of remaining unbeaten over their final five league games to attain as high a league position as possible; on Saturday a supporters' coach will travel to Morriston.

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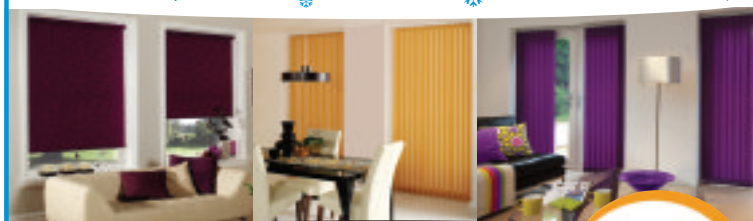
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Service Bournemouth Crematorium on Thursday, 27th March at 2.00pm. Family flowers only please, if desired donations made payable to "Shelter" may be sent c/o George Scott Funeral Services, 15 Somerset Road, Boscombe, BH7 6JH. Tel. 01202 395827

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Application No./Rhif y cais: 2014/00245/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Installation of 8 No. outdoor condenser units to the rear elevation first floor
Specsavers Opticians, 10, Windsor Road, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad: Penarth
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2014/00246/ADV
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed alterations to shopfront signage
Specsavers Opticians, 10, Windsor Road, Penarth
Location/Lleoliad: Penarth
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Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2014/00242/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Development of 62 residential dwellings, open space, sustainable urban drainage, vehicular and pedestrian accesses, landscaping and related infrastructure and engineering works
Land to the rear of St David's Primary School, Colwinston
Location/Lleoliad: Colwinston

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2014/00247/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Retrospective application for the excavation of 3 ponds/basins
The Barley Field, The Lawns, Cwrt yr Ala Road, Cardiff
Location/Lleoliad: Cardiff

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyo o'r Cynllun Datblygu

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Proposal/Cynnig: Development of 62 residential dwellings, open space, sustainable urban drainage, vehicular and pedestrian accesses, landscaping and related infrastructure and engineering works
Land to the rear of St David's Primary School, Colwinston
Location/Lleoliad: Colwinston

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8 Proposed development at Land south of Junction 34, M4, Hensol.

I give notice that Renishaw PLC is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except for access, for development comprising class B1, B2 and B8 uses; a hotel/residential training centre (class C1/C2); and ancillary uses within class A1, A2, A3; associated engineering and ground modelling works and infrastructure, car parking, drainage and access for all uses; provision of infrastructure (including energy centre(s));

landscaping and all ancillary enabling works.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement at a charge of £20.00 for the Non-Technical Summary, £100.00 for Volume 1 : ES main Text and figures, £150.00 for Volume 2 and 3 : ES Appendices or £20.00 for full copy (Volumes 1 and 2 with NTS) of the ES on CD from Environmental Planning Barton Willmore, 7 Soho Square, London W1D 3QB so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 17 April, 2014.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 17 April 2014 quoting reference 2014/00228/EA0.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8 Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land south of Junction 34, M4, Hensol

Hysbysir trwy hyn Renishaw PLC n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfeirio Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except for access, for development comprising class B1, B2 and B8 uses; a hotel/residential training centre (class C1/C2); and ancillary uses within class A1, A2, A3; associated engineering and ground modelling works and infrastructure, car parking, drainage and access for all uses; provision of infrastructure (including energy centre(s)); landscaping and all ancillary enabling works

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Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 17 april, 2014.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 17 April 2014 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2014/00228/EA0.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 27 March, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Point-to-Point season gets off to a fine start as Glamorgan Hunt hosts Ystradowen meet

THE point-to-point season kicked off in the Vale last Saturday (March 22) with the Glamorgan Hunt-organised event at Ystradowen.

The stand-out performance on the day came from Ogmore's Nick Williams, who notched up his 150th point-to-point win.

He took the young horse maiden race on *Once In A Lifetime*.

It was a great day too for Tenby rider John Matthias, who crossed the line first in each of the first three races.

For a full report on the day's racing, see Brian Lee on page 37.

**Photographs:*

All images by Glyn Evans except those marked 'LY' which are by Lauren Yeoman.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
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The Glamorgan Hunt took the hounds on a 'parade lap' in between the races. See picture at top of page).



MARIA'S TASTE FOR ADVENTURE LEADS TO A STUNNING NEW WORLD RECORD

EVERYONE likes a bit of adventure in their lives but Maria Leijerstam, from Bonvilston in the Vale, has spent her life taking it much further than average!

It all culminated recently when, in January, after four years of planning, she set a new world record by cycling to the South Pole!

It was an immense effort, and she suffered from more than just the extreme cold, as an injury to her patella (knee cap) meant that she had to continued pedalling through excruciating pain.

TV viewers last week watched Prince Harry and his fellow walkers on the 'Walking with the Wounded' team endure similar hardship at the South Pole, but Maria had a much closer view.

She explained: "To start my cycle ride, I flew in on a Hercules from Cape Town to the Russian Antarctic Station at the South Pole.

"Prince Harry and his walkers were waiting there, because they were flying home on the same plane."

"We spent 10 minutes talking, and he was keen to find out about my challenge – but he was also keen to get home!"

Once Prince Harry had flown out, Maria and her revolutionary ice cycle were taken in a specially adapted truck to the starting point – and then it was up to Maria to make it back – across 650 kilometres of frozen wasteland, very little of which was flat and easy terrain.

Maria explained: "The South Pole is at 3,000 metres, and you have a choice of routes. It's a question of which glacier you choose to ascend."

From the original race to the South Pole between Capt Scott and Amundsen, the choice of route has always been important – and so it was for Maria.

She had rivals as well, two other (male) teams who were aiming to cycle to the Pole but, truth be told, it was no race at all, as Maria's astonishing time of 10 days, 14 hours and 56 minutes totally eclipsed the opposition!

The secret of her success lay in her own determination and in four years of planning. One key factor was the time Maria spent with Inspired Cycle Engineering of Cornwall, the company which designed her cycle.

The design, enabling her to lie back and pedal, helped her cope with the strong winds – very important because the prevailing wind direction was against!

The tricycle design was crucial, giving her much more stability over rough terrain. She also spent a time asking



by PHILIP IRWIN

research stations in the area for help in mapping out a route. The Antarctic is not extensively mapped, and it was a question of piecing together a route from partial information from a number of sources.

Planning an Antarctic adventure comes with a great deal of bureaucracy and rules. Maria had a total of three interviews before being granted a visa, and then came the rules governing any Antarctic travel – a mixture of the bizarre and the scary.

For instance, the official advice for anyone going to the area for a time is to have your appendix removed! There is no guarantee, you see, that a surgeon could get to you in time.

Another (very) surprising rule concerns disposing of any waste products that you generate. A radius of 100 km from the South Pole is to be kept 'pure' – and no waste at all can be buried there. Outside the 100km mark, you are allowed to bury waste – both packaging and 'natural'.

It means that the unique environment is protected. Maria explained: "It is a world where there are no smells at all – just ice and glaciers stretching as far as you can see."

Over the 10 days that Maria was cycling, she was pedalling for up to 17 hours a day, burning 4,000 calories during that time. Food was dried, and so she needed to light a stove and melt ice to prepare it – something that takes several hours – and this leaves little time for unpacking a tent and getting some sleep.

This is where Maria's passion for adventure racing was a huge help. She discovered the sport in her early 20s, while at university, and it combines running, cycling and kayaking over wide areas, frequently over six or seven days, with very limited opportunities for sleep.

Maria explained: "Adventure racing involves teams of four – three boys and a girl. The girl is jokingly known as 'compulsory baggage' but the truth is that we have greater powers of endurance. The boys go off faster but suffer more."

On a typical six-day race, the team will grab about two hours of sleep a night, on average, and in the later stages, sleep-deprivation causes hallucinations!

Surprisingly, Maria was not particularly sporty in school. She played tennis but not much else. However, at university she joined the Officers' Training Corps and discovered she enjoyed testing herself on physical challenges.

She didn't neglect her studies, though, and gained a maths degree, which led to her working for BA Systems on calibrating missile guidance systems.

The adventure racing became a passion, and this has taken her all over the world – from Russia to Patagonia. She is now back in the Vale, managing the family's deer estate in Bonvilston, and promoting her 'mini burn' series of races.

These are mini versions of adventure racing, and are tailored for families, where a family team will cycle, run and kayak in the countryside. Maria says that is a great opportunity for parents to do something active with their children.

Is Maria settled in the Vale now? Well, the Ice Cycle Challenge to the South Pole has left her in debt, so she is aiming to recoup those costs with talks to corporate clients.

However, she is toying with one more big adventure – which is very hush hush at the moment.....

For information on the Burn Series, go to www.burnseries.co.uk, and for details of speaking engagements, visit www.whiteicecycle.com



A brief Royal Antarctic encounter; Maria disembarks her flight and is greeted by an eager Prince Harry, who is looking forward to boarding!



Are you ready for some local family adventures? Then join the Vale's own world record holder, Maria Leijerstam in next week's GEM!

Starting exclusively in next week's GEM, Maria Leijerstam will be setting our readers simple adventures each week that the whole family can take part in, leading up to the summer. Make it your mission to have a calendar full of adventures in 2014. Full details www.burnseries.co.uk/youradventure and see next week's GEM for the first adventure!



New Volvo has plenty of high-tech features

LASER radar sounds like something off a sci-fi thriller but we're actually talking about technology fitted to Volvo cars, those traditionally staid and dull vehicles, favoured by the flat cap brigade.

Today's hip and trendy Volvo are anything but and are packed with sophisticated technology that keeps the brand at the forefront of car design and manufacture. Its laser radar systems are a key ingredient.

I'm testing the V40

D3 R-Design, a performance five-door hatchback and it's fitted with an intelligent yet simple to operate cruise control. As you might expect, this keeps the car travelling at the desired speed but unlike most systems it also measures the distance of the car in front.

This ensures that it keeps the Volvo at a safe distance behind. It does this by automatically braking and accelerating thanks to the information relayed by its clever laser radar.

This distance can be changed from reasonably close to quite far away, depending on driving conditions.

In theory, this is a valuable tool that should mean that the driver can relax. Not so though. My test takes place in torrential downpours and high winds and I discover that the radar is not infallible.

This becomes particularly noticeable while at 70mph round a bend on a dual carriageway. The Volvo is in the outside lane but on approaching the bend there is a car on the inside and the radar picks this up and brakes abruptly, despite there being no cars in front of me. This annoys me and I cancel the function.

On another occasion, we are on a straight road



The Volvo V40 D3 R-Design

and high winds cause a flashing red warning bar on the driver's side of the dashboard to light up – accompanied by a really loud beep – for absolutely no reason whatsoever. My sleeping children wake up.

High side winds seem to completely throw the radar and despite there being no traffic in front, the Volvo brakes sharply from 70mph to 50mph.

That said, this cruise control is quite

impressive when you bear in mind that it can be set at say, 50mph, and if a sharp incline appears the resulting gear change does not cancel out the cruise control. Often this is the case in many other vehicles.

Another safety feature is the blind spot information system. There's a little light on the inside of the wing mirror that glows red whenever a vehicle appears in the blind spot.

This is useful, because the design is prone to blind spots, especially at the rear making it a little awkward to reverse but there are helpful sensors fitted that beep to alert the driver of nearby obstacles.

As a driver's car, the Volvo is engaging and the R-Design model, which comes with big alloys, a smooth power delivery for a diesel and a low chassis, corners really well.

To give it a good run I drive it to Sandbanks, Poole, West Stafford near Dorchester and a lovely little village near Didcot, Oxford. All are places we had not visited before, so why not?

With an average fuel consumption of over 65mpg it will easily cover over 600 miles on

its 60-litre tank. It is fitted with engine start/stop. These relatively long journeys in generally heavy lashing rain allow me to experience the car in the worst conditions.

At one point it rains so heavily that even with the wipers on the fastest speed it is impossible to see and thankfully traffic eventually slows to a crawl.

I find the leather sports seats too hard and not supportive enough for my lower back and there is a disappointing lack of a footrest for the driver's left foot. I struggle with operating the heating because both left and right sides of the car are operated from a single dial near the driver – the switch that's incorporated has to be pushed once for left and

again for right.

It's all a bit confusing for a simple soul when they're focusing on the road, so luckily my wife is there to operate the more technical things.

The boot is large enough for our single pushchair.

This 150bhp 2-litre diesel is a gutsy car that has enough power when required. Finished to a high standard, the sound of the engine can be heard on tick over, which does alert the occupants to the fact that they're in a diesel.

Facts at a glance:

Volvo V40 D3 R-Design, New price: £31,780.

0-60mph: 9.1 secs, Top speed: 130mph, Economy: 65.7mpg, Fuel capacity: 60 litres.

League success for Vale under-12 girls!



THE Vale Dragons under-12 girls team were recently celebrating after two wins on Sunday, March 23, secured the league division two title.

The team, coached by David and Mica Buffin, have developed superbly over the season, having been placed into division two of the under-12 South Wales Girls League in November.

The team has gone on to record an impressive 13 victories, five draws and just one defeat from their 19 games, with one week of the season to go.

This is an excellent achievement for a young team that were only put together in the summer of 2013, and with half the players playing football

for the first time.

The club has enjoyed a very strong season at under-12 level, with the under-12 Vale Athletic team winning the Futsal Cup and also competing at the top of division one, which highlights the progress the club is making after just two years in operation.

The club is about the launch its summer recruitment programme for new players and anyone wanting to get involved should contact Luke Williams on 07832 273688 or email valegirlsfc@gmail.com.

More information is available on the club website valegirlsfc.co.uk.

LW

Good day out for JSTKD students!



Back row (left to right): Chris Edwards, Ashton Curnick, Menna Birmingham, Lynne Doel.
Front row (left to right): Rhys Doel, Josh Edwards, Sean Edwards, Harri Birmingham.

STUDENTS from Vale-based JSTKD Martial Arts & Fitness excelled at the recent English Tae Kwon Do Championships held in Worcester.

Ashton Curnick (13), who will be heading with the Welsh team to the European Tae Kwon Do Championships later this month, fought magnificently to win gold, becoming the English champion in the green belt lightweight division.

His Welsh team-mates, Menna Birmingham (10) and Harri Birmingham (nine) also fought well in their respective divisions but missed out on the medals this time around.

Further medal success came from the team's youngest member, Sean Edwards (six) who narrowly missed out on gold after a close-run contest in the final. After a brave battle, he eventually took the silver in the tiny tots yellow belt division.

Rhys Doel (10) who is the current Welsh peewee division champion, moved up to the boys' lightweight red belt category this time. He started strongly,

displaying excellent head kicks in the first round but just lost out in the second despite continuing to exhibit some solid skills.

It was a similar story for team mate Josh Edwards who also fought well in the earlier rounds before going out of the tournament.

Not to be outdone, the adults were also determined to make their mark with Lynne Doel winning the silver in the ladies' light heavyweight division. Lynne did particularly well considering she only took up Tae Kwon Do less than two years ago after watching her children train at the club.

Chris Edwards and Simon Morgan, both novices, fought in the men's middleweight division and although doing well, did not progress to the finals.

Joseph Schembri, head instructor, praised his students' achievements, commenting: "The team did brilliantly and we are now looking forward to building on our success at the Welsh Championships in May."

For further details of JSTKD's classes in Barry and throughout the Vale visit www.jstkdc.co.uk.

VW

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Barrivale bridge club

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club, March 18:

1st Kay Dyer and Denis Mottram 63.89 per cent; joint 2nd Lyn Matthews and Alan Jones and Irene Thomas and Jane Brook 56.28. Vivien Liles and Hilary Laurence won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale; if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

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THRILLS AND SPILLS AT YSTRADOWEN!

THERE were plenty of spills and thrills for the huge crowd at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Ystradowen on Saturday where Ogmores Nick Williams rode his 150th winner between-the-flags (see pictures on page 34).

Nick took the young horse maiden race on *Once In A Lifetime*, a six-year-old bay gelding which won by one-and-a-half lengths from *Our Difference*.

Williams, who has also ridden plenty of winners under rules, won the Horse & Hound Cup at Stratford on *Torduff Express* in 2004 two years after his older brother Christian had been successful on *Primitaccio* in 2002.

The first three races all went to Tenby's John Mathias. He won on *CanSheTrain* (Members), *Brooklyn Heights* (Aged Maiden) and *Captain Scarlett* (Confined). Robert Jones' *CanSheTrain* was an easy winner but both *Brooklyn Heights* and *Captain Scarlett* could be considered lucky winners.

Brooklyn Heights was behind *Barney Dunne* (Bradley Gibbs) who looked to have his race in the bag, only to stumble at the last fence and *Captain Scarlett* looked beaten when *PatrickTom Boru*, who led going to the last, collided with a marker. *PatrickTom Boru*'s rider, Evan David, was airlifted to hospital.

Amber Griffiths is the trainer of *CanSheTrain* and *Brooklyn Heights* but *Captain Scarlett* is trained by Wick's Robbie Llewellyn for his father Gary, who was visiting the winner's enclosure for the first time in around 10 years.

Kris Hanmer, aged 23, who rides out for Aberthyn's Tim Vaughan, won the mixed open race on Andrew Quick's grey *Sangfroid* a former inmate of Tim Vaughan's yard.

Sangfroid, who is not the easiest of rides, won by two lengths from the favourite *Cock Of The Rock* and his rider did well to win on him as the horse has been awarded the infamous Timeform squiggle - which means he is unreliable.

Mr Quick, mine host of The Greendown Inn, is also to be congratulated on getting the 10-year-old back to his winning ways. He says the horse will now run in the Bonhams Hunter Chase at Cheltenham on April 30.

Pyle's David Brace OBE, who owns *Cock Of The Rock*, saw his promising home-bred five-year-old

Dhobe, well ridden by Bradley Gibbs, win the restricted race by two lengths from Neighbours Lady.

RESULTS:

Members: *CanSheTrain* (John Mathias) 5-1; Young Horse Maiden: *Brooklyn Heights* (John Mathias) 2-1; Confined: *Captain Scarlett* (John Mathias) 16-1; Mixed Open: *Sangfroid* (Kris Hanmer) 7-1; Restricted: *Dhobe* (Bradley Gibbs) 4-1 co-favourite; Maiden: *Once In A Lifetime* (Nick Williams) 9-4 favourite.

The Monmouthshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases take place at Llanvapley this Saturday (first race 1pm); racegoers should note that the first of the two pony races will be run at 11am.

BRIAN LEE

Petanque season starts with triples

THE Stuart Clarke Cup triples competition opened the 2014 petanque season on Sunday, March 15, at the Wenvoe PC.

Congratulations to the winning team RBB, comprising Jean-Yves Robic (Penarth PC), Phil Bradshaw and Ian Bailey (both of the Monkstone Inn PC), who won all six of their games to take this year's Stuart Clarke Cup.

In second place were the team of Gemma Foster, Jake Caston (both of the Wheatshaf PC) and Bob Pugh (Wenvoe PC).

A special congratulations must go to the team of Valerie and Robert Falconer and

John Thorn (all from the Penarth PC) who finished third after beating some extremely experienced teams.

It was good to see some new faces taking part in the competition, especially a team from Monmouth PC.

The National Veterans' Championship took place on Sunday, March 23, again at the Wenvoe PC. The winners of this year's National Championship will be invited to represent Wales at the European Veterans' Championship in Luleå, Sweden, between June 27/28.

Everyone is welcome to come and watch and learn more about this great sport.

JS

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- 61 SAAB 9.5 Vector SE 2.0 TD (160) Auto. In met grey, 41,000 miles with leather trim **£12,995**
- 60 MERCEDES B160 Sport (Blue Efficiency). In black, 25,000 miles, on offer at **£10,495**
- 54 MERCEDES SLK 350 Auto. In silver, with leather, sat nav, air scarf etc, stylish convertible at **£8,995**
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- 11 KIA Venga 2 1.6 Automatic. In red, 20,000 miles, a/c, alloys, p/sensors **£6,695**
- 11 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique 7-seater. In ice blue metallic, 27,000 miles, 1 owner **£8,495**
- 11 VW Polo 1.2 Diesel (75) SE. In silver, 65,000 miles, fantastic value at **£7,995**
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- 05 VOLVO V70 2.4 SE (170) Auto. Met grey/beige leather, 80,000 miles, large estate **£4,995**
- 56 TOYOTA Avensis 2.2 D-4D T180. In met silver, 82,000 miles with leather, sat-nav etc **£4,995**
- 53 MERCEDES CLK 200 Elegance Auto. In jasper blue with full leather, 66,000 mile coupe at **£4,995**
- 58 HYUNDAI i10 Comfort 1.2 5-dr. In met grey, 32,000 miles, £30 road tax **£4,695**
- 07 NISSAN Note 1.6 SVE Automatic. In silver, 47,000 miles, superb example **£4,695**
- 58 FORD FIESTA 1.2 Zetec Climate 3-Dr. In apple green metallic **£4,495**
- 58 SMART Fortwo Passion MHD Auto In met blue/black two tone, 25,000 miles, 21,000 miles **£4,495**
- 07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SXi Automatic. In black, 62,000 miles with a/c **£4,495**
- 04 MINI Cooper (Pepper). In met blue, 68,000 miles, 1 owner with a/c, very nice example **£4,495**

- 04 MERCEDES C200 Diesel Avantgarde SE Auto. In light met blue, 89,000 miles **£4,295**
- 04 VW Beetle 1.9 Diesel. In speed blue, 53,000 miles, 1 owner **£4,295**
- 07 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr. In met grey, 70,000 miles with a/c, alloys etc **£4,295**
- 55 MINI Cooper. In chilli red with black roof, alloys, c/d etc, superb value at **£4,295**
- 04 VW Beetle 1.9 Diesel. In speed blue, 53,000 miles, 1 owner **£4,295**
- 09 CHEVROLET Aveo 1.2 LS 5-Dr. In silver, 24,000 miles, fantastic value at **£3,995**
- 08 MAZDA 2 1.4 TS2 3-dr. In red, nice bright local car, £30 road tax, low insurance **£3,995**
- 57 DODGE Calibra 1.8 SXT. In met burnt orange, 75,000 miles, superb value **£3,995**
- 57 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 M Play 3-Dr. In red, 36,000 miles, low insurance **£3,995**
- 56 SEAT Altea 1.6 Sport. In tungsten silver, 63,000 miles, superb example **£3,995**
- 55 MERCEDES C180 Kompressor SE Auto. In silver, fantastic value, executive saloon **£3,995**
- 05 PEUGEOT 307cc 2.0. In met grey, full electric folding roof, 69,000 miles **£3,995**
- 05 MERCEDES A170 Elegance SE 5-Dr. In met gold, 84,000 miles, nice example at **£3,995**
- 54 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 Sport Auto. In Jaguar racing green with beige leather, 69,000 miles, superb example at **£3,995**
- 07 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SXi Coupe. In black, a/c, alloys etc, stylish sport coupe **£3,695**
- 07 CITROEN C1 Vibe 3-Dr. In red, 44,000 miles, with rear spoiler, low insurance **£3,695**
- 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-Dr. In black, 53,000 miles **£3,695**
- 06 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVTi Sport. In met grey, 69,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,695**
- 08 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5-Dr. In black, 67,000 miles, low insurance **£3,495**
- 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Activ 5-dr. In met silver, 50,000 miles, low insurance **£3,495**
- 56 PEUGEOT 207 1.4S (90) 3-dr. In electric blue, 63,000 miles with a/c **£3,495**
- 57 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 5-Dr. In ice blue, 49,000 miles, low insurance **£3,295**
- 08 FORD KA 1.3 Style. In silver, 39,000 miles, low insurance **£2,695**
- 05 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 3-Dr. In crystal green, 52,000 miles, alloys, a/c **£2,995**
- 05 CITROEN C2 1.4 Diesel LX. In black, 73,000 miles, 2 owners **£2,995**
- 05 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SE. In red with black leather trim, 70,000 miles, sports coupe at **£2,995**
- 05 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTi SXi 5-Dr. In silver, 67,000 miles, very nice example **£2,995**
- 04 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 Automatic. In met blue, 73,000 miles, easy to get in and out **£2,695**
- 07 FORD KA Style. In met blue, 27,000 miles, 1 owner, low insurance **£2,495**
- 55 FORD Street KA 1.6 Ice. In met grey, with full leather, 59,000 miles, convertible at **£2,495**
- 04 MAZDA 2 125 5-dr. In met blue, 59,000 miles, low insurance **£2,495**
- 53 FORD StreetKA. In electric blue, 66,000 miles, convertible at **£2,495**
- 51 HONDA Civic 1.6 V-Tec S Automatic 3-Dr. In silver, 53,000 miles, 1 owner **£2,495**
- 53 FIAT Punto 1.4 Sporting, 6 speed. In ice blue, 70,000 miles, multi c/d, alloys **£2,195**
- 54 RENAULT Laguna 1.8 Extreme. In met grey, 71,000 miles, 1 owner **£1,795**
- 53 ROVER 75 1.8 SE. In met gold, 89,000 miles, nice example at **£1,795**



58 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec Climate 3-Dr.
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Athletic extend their good form with win



PHOTOS BY
GLENNSPORTS

ABOVE: Ryan Owen, Sam Treharne and Sean Williams on the charge for the Athletic, while RIGHT: Tom Penry Ellis and Griff Davies evade the Llanharan defence.



BRIDGEND ATHLETIC extended their recent excellent run of results to five wins and a draw with a 20-10 away victory in the local derby at the Dairy Field, Llanharan; it is their best unbeaten sequence of games since joining the Championship and avenged an earlier 17-15 defeat at home.

A strong second half performance against the wind saw the Athletic dominate territorially, a huge improvement on a scrappy first half which was spoilt by poor use of the advantage laws by the referee, who was too soon to blow the whistle at times.

In blustery playing conditions, outside half Steve Lewis was unlucky with a penalty attempt striking the near post. This was followed almost immediately with the Llanharan wing Rhys Walker crossing in the corner with the home side's first visit to the Athletic 22.

From the restart, wing Rhys Ward Jones made good ground into the Llanharan half and following an offence at the breakdown, fly half Lewis was able to reduce the arrears with a penalty 30 metres out to the left of the posts.

From Llanharan's drop out a good piece of interplay between centres Lyndsey Macausland and Ryan Owen put fullback Dan Howells over in the corner for a try, well converted by Steve Lewis to give the Athletic a 10-5 lead approaching halftime.

However, with minutes remaining to the half-time whistle Llanharan levelled the score when their centre Morgan Williams outpaced the Athletic defence to dive over wide out.

With the strong wind now favouring Llanharan, the Athletic started the resumption brightly with the pack picking up the pace of the game and dominating the lineouts, with captain Sean Williams securing good ball at the tail.

This enabled his pack to execute some



ABOVE: Tom Penry Ellis is swarmed by the Llanharan defence.

excellent driving mauls.

After a series of offences, Llanharan prop James Uren was yellow carded and from the resulting penalty to the corner, hooker Simon Mustoe was driven over for the Athletic to re-establish the lead.

Lock Griff Davies who had put in his usual hard stint was replaced by Scott Hicks and the industrious Dan Apsee replaced by Sam Treharne.

This seemed to invigorate the away team who broke from deep on several occasions with Steve Lewis, Rhys Ward Jones and Ryan Owen all showing willingness to run hard at the opposition. One such move resulted in skipper Sean Williams appearing to ground the ball legitimately in the corner, only for the referee to disallow the score – much to the away supporters' annoyance.

The Athletic continued to pressurise the home line and, following a series of five-metre line outs, indiscipline again resulted in a home player being yellow carded. With the opposition one man down, the visitors added a further try from substitute Sam Treharne with a drive for the line.

The game was marred in the dying minutes when, after a rolling maul by the now dominant Athletic pack to the Llanharan 10-metre line, a penalty was awarded initially to the visitors.

However during the stoppage after the whistle had blown, bizarrely substitute Scott Hicks was dismissed from the field of play for an alleged tip tackle on a Llanharan player.

From the resulting penalty, Llanharan tried to claw back a bonus point but the kick fell short to give the visitors a deserved.

This Saturday, the Athletic entertain Bonymaen and will be looking to extend the winning sequence and gain their third Championship double of the season.

GD



Sheila Storer, Marie Hartland; Janet Richards (chairman), Roger Plant, Terry Dolan.

Porthcawl bridge club see close-fought battles

AS is the case in any game or sport, experience counts.

In the annual ladies' pairs event for the Gaskell Cup, Sheila Storer – at the grand young age of 100 – together with Marie Hartland, triumphed over their much younger rivals.

The men's pairs for the Cornish Cup was a closely fought competition, where Terry Dolan and Roger Plant won on the last board.

Other latest results are:

Saturday, March 8: First Colin & Hazel Heard; second Peter & Sandie Jenkins. Monday, March 10: First - Sue Anthony & Terry Dolan; second - Gary Williams & Tony Haworth.

Thursday, March 13, ladies' pairs: First Sheila & Marie Hartland; second Jean Hughes & Sandie Jenkins. Men's

pairs: Terry Dolan & Roger Plant; second (equal) Roger Draper & Alwyn Hill, Rory Gibbons & John Cobby.

Saturday, March 15: First Colin & Hazel Heard, second Eileen Mahoney & Rory Gibbons. Monday, March 17: First Roger Plant & Terry Dolan; second Janet Richards & Pat Haworth. Thursday, March 20: First Tony Haworth & John Cobby; second Maurice & Margaret Harris.

The club meets three times a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel 7pm - 10.15pm; visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call our secretary Trish on 01656785794.

TH

Players receive call up to train-on squads

A total of 16 players from last season's successful South Wales under-16 scholarship side have been selected for the new South Wales Scorpions under-19 and Wales under-18 train-on squads.

They are part of a 34-man Wales under-18 line-up and a 28-man Scorpions squad, both of which were selected following trials at Taff's Well.

No less than 27 of these players will be in both squads with Bridgend College's Cameron O'Sullivan the only potential Scorpions player ineligible for the Wales under-18 side.

Eleven of the players are in the WRL's AASE Academy based at Maesteg School with one of them, Maesteg local Gethyn Lloyd, in his first season playing rugby league.

The Wales under-18s side will take on Scotland under-18s, England Community Lions and England Academy in the autumn.

They will train once a month with the first session on Saturday, April 26 at Taff's Well RFC from 9.30am to 12 noon.

In a role reversal to the South Wales Scorpions, Paul

Emanuelli will coach the side with Mike Grady assisting him.

Emanuelli said: "I'm really excited to be given the opportunity to work with the next crop of talented Welsh youngsters."

Seven of the current South Wales Scorpions first team squad, all of whom are aged 19 and under, will also be eligible to join this squad if not selected for the first team in any particular week.

They will take on similar outfits from Gloucestershire All Stars, London Skolars, Oxford, Hemel Stags and Coventry Bears.

The players will train at Maesteg School every Tuesday and Thursday from 7pm-9pm and all players will also be in contention for Wales' Commonwealth Games rugby league squad.

Both train-on squads: Ed Howley, Alex King, Marcus Webb (all Bridgend College / South Wales U16 Academy 2013); Joseph Symons (Brynteg Comprehensive / South Wales U20 Academy 2013); Rhys Davies, Rhys Finney (both Coleg Gwent / South Wales U20 Academy 2013); James Taylor (Gower College / South Gower Rebels); Gethyn Lloyd (Maesteg School RL Academy); Rhys Brownsell, Harry Boots,

Regan Grace, Morgan Jeffries, Ben Jones, Shane Lee, Dan Maiden, Liam Maule, Jordan Thomas, Zak Williams (all Maesteg School RL Academy / South Wales U16 Academy 2013); Paul Edwards (Neath Port Talbot College / Valley Cougars); Jack Marshall (St. David's College / South Wales U20 Academy 2013); Calvin Wellington (St Joseph's School, Port Talbot / South Wales U16 Academy 2013); Josh Batcup, Shaun Edwards, Kallum Evans (all Ysgol Y Strade), Curtis Gygol, Connor Davies (Ysgol Gfyn Ystalyfera / South Wales U16 Academy 2013); Jo Festa (South Wales U20 Academy 2013).

South Wales under 19 squad only: Cameron O'Sullivan (Bridgend College).

Wales under 18 squad only: Dylan Rowley (Alun School / Flintshire Falcons), Kyle Moore (Bradford Bulls), Connor Farrer (Coleg Y Cymoedd / South Wales Scorpions), Josh Williams (The Crypt School, Gloucester / Gloucestershire All Stars), Matthew Davies (North Wales Crusaders), Morgan Knowles (St Helens), Rhys Fitzgerald (University of South Wales / South Wales Scorpions).

IG

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, March 19: First Steve Burgoyne and Ann Fox, second Mel Humphries and Glyn Williams, third Peter Bugden and Geoff Barnes.

Friday, March 21, The Max Powell Rose Bowl: First Irene Thomas and John Whateley, second Liam Sheridan and Alan Williams, third Dave Reed and Jim Hume.

The best placed improvers for Thursday, March 20 were Arthur Harvey, Norma Phinnemore, Colin

Lewis and Stuart Davies.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Noltan Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are most welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced and where assistance is readily available.

A new course for beginners will begin in September - to register an interest call either Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or John Evans on 01656 880372.

DN

We welcome your reports, news and other items of interest - email us at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk